

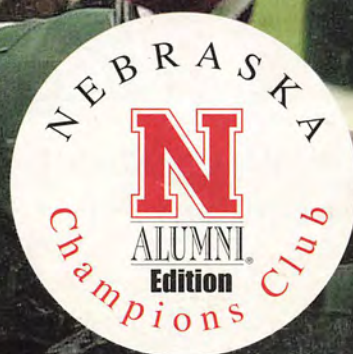
# Huskers Illustrated

NEWS  
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Volume 21, No. 13

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## Runnin' In The Rain





**champion** (chăm'pē-on)

*n.* 1. A winner of first place in a competition. 2. One who shows marked superiority.



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## Fumbles Keep Things Interesting

*Unbeaten Huskers one step closer to showdown with Sooners*



**Brian Hill**

THERE WERE SIGNS early that strange things might be happening.

Nebraska won the toss and deferred its choice to the second half, as it often does. Instead of taking the football to start the game, heavy underdog Baylor then chose to kickoff.

Josh Davis had a nice 32-yard return, before fumbling. He recovered his own fumble, but it was a sign of things to come, as the Huskers would drop the football seven times, losing five, on a rainy, chilly day in Waco.

There had been more serious weather in the area on Friday night, as tornadoes touched down and caused widespread damage in central Texas.

And Saturday's game was delayed by lightning with 7:34 remaining in the second quarter. Despite dominating the game, Nebraska led just 14-0.

After a 36-minute delay, the game resumed, with the Huskers backed up at their own 1-yard line. Two plays later, quarterback Eric Crouch fumbled in the end zone, and Baylor's Stephen Sepulveda recovered for a touchdown.

Eight minutes into the third quarter, the Bears were still trailing 14-7 and knocking on the door at the Nebraska 33. After an incomplete pass on third down, Baylor chose to punt, penning Nebraska back at its 12.

The Huskers apparently decided it was time to put the Bears out of their misery and marched 88 yards to take a 21-7 lead. Four fourth-quarter touchdowns later, it was 48-7.

Nebraska rolled up 641 yards rushing and 688 yards total offense — the most

ever allowed by a Baylor defense — while holding the Bears to 187 yards.

But yes, it really was a 7-point game until late in the third quarter.

For poor Baylor, it's out of the frying pan and into the fire, as the Bears face defending national champion Oklahoma on the road this week.

The stage continues to be set for the Oct. 27 Nebraska-Oklahoma showdown in Lincoln. With No. 1 and 2 Florida getting knocked off by Auburn, the Sooners and Huskers should enter the game ranked 2 and 3, behind Miami. While the Sooners play host to Baylor this week, Nebraska must get by Texas Tech, which

handed sinking Kansas State its third straight loss.

With one Texas game down (Baylor) and another (Texas Tech) this week, contributing editor Mike Babcock takes a look at Nebraska's recruiting effort in the Longhorn State in our feature story in this issue.

The subject of this week's player profile is the aforementioned Josh Davis, the son of 1973 leading rusher

Tony Davis. The younger Davis has provided a spark as a kickoff returner and scored his first career touchdown on a 13-yard run from scrimmage against Baylor.

Our latest installment of "Great Games at Memorial Stadium" is the story of a rare Husker loss at home — the 1980 Florida State game. Since that 18-14 loss, Nebraska is 127-9 at Memorial Stadium entering this week's Homecoming game against Texas Tech.

By the way, as of presstime, no official starting time had been set for the game with the Red Raiders, as ABC was exercising its "6-day pick." The game will be televised at either 11:30 a.m. (Fox Syndication), 2:30 p.m. (ABC) or 6 p.m. (Fox Sports Net). The likely starting time was 6 p.m.

Also, no official starting time has been announced for the Nebraska-Oklahoma game, but it is expected to be an 11 a.m. telecast on ABC.

Only one more week to wait. ■



### ON THE COVER

Nebraska fullback Judd Davies breaks loose for a 42-yard touchdown run in the first quarter. *Photo by Duane A. Laverty/Waco Tribune-Herald*

## Huskers Illustrated

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**Club**  
**Special**  
**Section**



12

## 12 Recruiting Texas

Sherman, Texas, product Justin Smith is one member of the Lone Star State contingent on the Nebraska football team. *By Mike Babcock*

## NEXT ISSUE

The review of the Texas Tech game will be mailed Oct. 22.



# Difficult Switch

Junior Tagoa'i was disappointed, and then some.

"I was heart-broken," he said. "I mean, I just felt like I failed."

The feeling of failure swept over him like an ill wind prior to spring practice, after he was told he would be moving from defensive tackle to offensive guard. "I always played defense," said Tagoa'i, a 6-foot-2, 290-pound sophomore from Hauula, Hawaii. "I grew up to hate offense."

"Going from a sprinting stance to cocking back, it's hard."

So was changing his on-field mindset. "That's another thing; I look at defense more as hunters and offense more as protectors," he said. "I always wanted to be a hunter."

That image is appropriate to his personality. He's very aggressive. "I guess you could say that," he said. But, he added with a laugh, "I'm not going to get myself in trouble."

Playing in the offensive line has forced him to channel that aggression.

Tagoa'i played in five games as a back-up nose tackle last season, after redshirting as a freshman. Because of a knee problem, however, he underwent arthroscopic surgery and missed the final three games, including the Alamo Bowl. The on-going knee problems led to his position switch.

"I understood," he said. "I got banged up, and my knees aren't what they used to be. I could see it in myself. I knew I wasn't the same player that they recruited. I knew that for a fact."

Tagoa'i followed former Cornhusker center Dominic Raiola and middle linebacker Tony Tata to Nebraska from perennial Hawaiian prep power St. Louis School in Honolulu.

He picked the Cornhuskers over Washington, Colorado and California, all of whom were interested in him as a defensive player. He never considered offense as an option.



Junior Tagoa'i is listed No. 3 at right guard.

Even after the position switch was proposed, he remained skeptical.

"I didn't want to go to offense, but what can I do? I'm not a coach," he said. "I guess the coaches know what they're doing. They've been coaching this game longer than I've been alive, so I figure they know. They've got the last word. So if I listen to them, I'll be all right."

The knee problems weren't the only reason the coaches decided to move him to offense. Depth became a concern after sophomore Jon Dawson suffered an ACL tear in the spring. Tagoa'i has the size to play in the offensive line, and the savvy — on the field and off. He has made the Big 12 Commissioner's honor roll twice, and he earned second-team Academic All-Big 12 recognition last fall.

Considering his reservations about playing offense, he has adapted quickly.

"I came a long way from the spring I think," he said. "You've got a different set of eyes when you're on

defense and offense. On defense you go and you look for the ball. You're looking for one little thing and someone running a certain way. On offense, you've got to open your eyes a lot.

"You've got to see people moving different ways. One guy goes one way and he's not your man anymore. You've got to pick up the next man. You've got to open up your eyes.

"I'm just now starting to open my eyes."

In the spring, his vision was clouded by inexperience.

"The hardest part was the uncertainty because on defense you know you line up in a gap. 'That's my turf. You don't step on my turf.' Offense is . . . you've got to think," he said.

"I wasn't sure (what to do) so I couldn't be aggressive. I didn't want to go all out on one thing and not take care of my assignment. I didn't want to go sprinting out to kill a backer

when he went that way and now I'm supposed to kill this guy. I'd just miss both guys, take myself out of the play.

"That was the hardest thing. I needed to get it down to start being aggressive."

Tagoa'i doesn't have any illusions about his situation. He's still learning.

"I still have trouble, sometimes, getting in my stance," he said.

But he's third on the depth chart at right guard, behind senior Jon Rutherford and junior Wes Cody, and that's not bad for someone who was playing nose tackle a year ago.

Tagoa'i refused to speculate on his future at offensive guard, however.

"That's up to the coaches," he said. "I don't know. If I get my stuff down . . . that's up to the coaches. I don't have it down pat, but I've got it down more than I used to.

"I actually know when I make a mistake."

The mistakes are less frequent now than they were in the spring.

And he's gotten a grip on the disappointment. ■



## NO RUNNING ALLOWED

Though Texas Tech's offense is built on the passing of Kliff Kingsbury, Nebraska's defense won't ignore the Red Raiders' running game. "The one thing we don't want to allow a great passing team to do is get their running game started or you are in big trouble," Coach Frank Solich said.

"Almost every school that I know of, every coach that I know of, starts off with stopping the running game and then going from there. We do that with great passing teams."

## ON THE EDGE

When it comes to making option decisions, Eric Crouch is as good as it gets.



Eric Crouch

"I think he's the best there is when he's on the edge . . . knowing when to pitch, when to turn it up, when to keep riding the option and then making the decision at the last moment," said Solich.

"And then I think you don't get any better, you don't get as good as he is, with the speed with which he turns up the field, his toughness and his ability to make people miss."

Crouch's leadership also has been "outstanding since the moment he arrived on campus," Solich said. "But as players get to know Eric and are around him more, they even appreciate him more as a person and as a leader because of how he goes about things not only on the field but off the field."

## FORE

John Garrison compares deep snapping to a golf swing.

"I did a little golfing this summer, embarrassed myself pretty bad," Nebraska's junior deep snapper said.

"I watch golfers on TV. It's amazing that they have the same rhythm ever time. I think it's the same way (with deep snapping). You don't change anything."

As for his golf game, "I wish I were better," he said. "I'm horrible."

Pitching a baseball also might provide a comparison for the rhythm a deep snapper must have. "I don't know much about pitching," said Garrison. "But it's just kind of a rhythm you go through. I don't feel like I'm really stressing myself to throw it back there that hard. I think if I tried to kill myself to get it back there, I'd fall down and miss my block, too. It's repetition, just like a pitcher." ■



John Garrison

# QUICK HITS

What's Happening In Nebraska Athletics?

## UPON FURTHER REVIEW

Strongside linebacker Scott Shanle was initially credited with three pass break-ups in the Missouri game. But a review of videotape of the game showed he actually had four.

The four break-ups are a Cornhusker record for a non-defensive back.

Shanle was named the Big 12 "Defensive Player of the Week" for his play against the Tigers. Punt returner DeJuan Groce was named conference "Special Teams Player of the Week."

## LOOS LOST

Sophomore offensive tackle Chris Loos has been lost for the season because of a knee injury suffered during practice for the Alamo Bowl game. Loos underwent surgery in late December to repair torn ligaments and expected to be able to return to action this season.

"It just takes some knees a little longer to heal than others," Solich said.

The injury isn't career-ending, however, according to Solich.

## RECRUIT SIDELINED

Jay Moore, who has made an oral commitment to accept a football scholarship in the Cornhuskers' 2002 recruiting class, suffered a knee injury in a high school game in late September.

Moore, from Elkhorn, Neb., had rushed for 822 yards and 16 touchdowns in five games prior to the injury. He was averaging 8.9 yards per carry. He had rushed for 202 yards and two touchdowns when he suffered the injury in the third quarter of a game between Elkhorn High and Omaha Roncalli.

## NO SENECA

Cornhusker sophomore Brett Lindstrom simulated quarterback Seneca Wallace on the scout team during practice the week before the Iowa State game. However, "it's hard to simulate," Solich said of Wallace's speed. "It's like asking Iowa State to simulate Eric Crouch."

## IMPROVING STEADILY

Nose tackle Manaia Brown, one of four true freshmen playing this season, is getting better all the time. "What people don't realize is he missed pretty much all of two-a-days with a pulled quad muscle," said defensive line coach Jeff Jamrog. "It takes a lot of snaps and repetition to get to know the blocking schemes because we do run multiple stunts. We don't just line up in the same thing all day."

"So I see Manaia getting better and better."

## TWO PLUS TWO

Senior tight end Tracey Wistrom, a math major in teachers college, is doing his practice teaching at Lincoln's Culler Middle School this semester.

He showed up for a recent news conference on Tuesday wearing a tie. "This is the new me," he said. "I've got to get up and teach on Tuesdays, so I'm going to be dressed up whenever I come in here."

Given that he was wearing a tie, he apparently might have been mistaken for a Missouri football fan. Before Nebraska played he Tigers at Faurot Field, he was asked about the fans there.

"I think you see people a little more dressed up for the games there," he said. "I don't know what it is. I have a lot of friends that go to school there. They're almost always in a suit out there, watching a football game. Then you come here and you've got people wearing corncobs and stuff like that."

"I don't know if that's one of the main differences."

He was laughing as he described the difference.

## 40-40 CLUB

With an assist on teammate Kelly Haxton's goal in a 2-0 victory over Kansas, Husker senior midfielder Meghan Anderson became the 29th NCAA Division-I athlete to record 40 career goals and 40 career assists. No other Husker has ever accomplished the feat.

"It's quite an accomplishment — even more so for a midfielder," Nebraska Coach John Walker said. "It's a very difficult thing to do. Meghan is just a complete player." ■



## Serious Business

*Tenopir has many fond memories of recruiting trips to west Texas*



**Mike BABCOCK**

MILT TENOPIR doesn't remember the specifics, but the events really did happen and they illustrate the passion, and the craziness, that surround high school football in Texas.

A few years ago, three high school teams in the large-schools classification in west Texas finished in a tie for the district championship. But only two teams could advance to the playoffs.

Each of the teams had one loss in district play, to one of the other two. So the rules stipulated that the tie was to be broken by the flip of a coin among the coaches of the teams, odd man out.

The situation was complicated by the fact that one of the coaches had to make the playoffs in order to retain his job. "You lose one game and your job depends on a coin flip," Tenopir said.

Because of the publicity surrounding the coin flip, the coaches arranged to meet late at night "at some truck stop in the boonies so nobody would know where they were at," he said.

The coach who needed to make the playoffs did, keeping his job with a coin flip. "That's a different way of life in football compared to what we're used to here," said Tenopir.

Nebraska's veteran offensive line coach speaks with considerable authority on the subject. He has recruited west Texas — roughly all of the state west of an imaginary north-south line running through Abilene — since the mid-1980s, and he's made a lot of friends in the process.

He and John Parchman, the head coach at Midland Lee, vacationed together in Louisiana last summer. "We developed a heck of a relationship over the years," Tenopir said. "They're good people."

Texas, with more than a quarter of a million square miles, is geographically diverse. And Tenopir felt at home in the western part of the state, where the population centers include Amarillo, Lubbock, Odessa, Midland and El Paso. "You have about 90,000 to 100,000 people, flat land and not a whole lot going on other than oil wells that are pumping and people that are hard-working," he said.

"There's a good work ethic. I compare west Texas an awful lot, Amarillo and all that, to Nebraska. The climates aren't a whole lot different. Amarillo's is probably about the same as here."

Like Nebraskans, west Texans are laid-back, according to Tenopir.

"But they take things fairly seriously in football," he said.

The first few years he recruited in west Texas, Tenopir piloted himself in small planes. But after being grounded

in Amarillo for three or four days because of fog and ice, he turned to commercial flights, connecting in Dallas with "puddle-jumpers" and then going from place to place by car.

Nebraska hasn't gotten a lot of players out of west Texas over the years. Texas Tech gets its share, of course, as do Texas A&M and Texas. But the Cornhuskers have landed some good ones. Sophomore free safety Willie Amos is from Sweetwater, just a little west of Abilene on Interstate 20.

In the 1970s, when Nebraska first went into Texas with a purpose, it came away with several players from the western part of the state, including All-Americans Kelvin Clark from Odessa and Junior Miller from Midland. Tom Sorley was from Big Spring and Richard Berns was from Wichita Falls.

In the 1980s, after Tenopir began visiting the area, the Cornhuskers attracted players such as Bill Bobbora from Amarillo, Chris Garrett from Snyder and Jake Young from Midland.

Young, a two-time All-American center, was heavily recruited out of Midland Lee, and getting him to come to Nebraska was made more difficult because "he had a sister at the University of Texas, I think," said Tenopir. "But I think we got Jake because of our tradition of linemen."

The two keep in touch. Young is a mergers and acquisitions lawyer, currently in Hong

Kong.

Tenopir remembers arriving in Midland in the late afternoon to visit a recruit at Lee High School and deciding to pass some time beforehand watching practice. "There were about 150 kids running around, and a few people sitting in chairs," he said. It turned out to be a junior varsity practice.

The varsity didn't practice until later that day, and there must have been a thousand people watching.

Tradition also was a factor in getting Aaron Taylor, another two-time All-American and the 1997 Outland Trophy winner, out of Rider High in Wichita Falls. But mostly Nebraska got Taylor because other schools initially considered him to short to play offensive line at the major college level.

When the Cornhuskers took an interest, "other people tried to jump in on him," Tenopir said.

Recruiting assignments have been shuffled, and defensive line coach Jeff Jamrog is taking over west Texas. Tenopir could still visit the area if the Cornhuskers find an offensive lineman with a serious interest in them, but he made his last regular recruiting trip during the spring period, "knowing that I wouldn't be there in the fall, kind of as a fond farewell to them all," he said. "I'll miss it." ■



**Milt Tenopir is in his 28th season as Nebraska's offensive line coach.**



## Nebraska Soccer 2001 Home Schedule

Aug. 31	Arizona	7 p.m.
Sept. 2	Alabama-Birmingham	1 p.m.
Sept. 5	Minnesota	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	Northern Iowa	7 p.m.
Sept. 23	Evansville	1 p.m.
Sept. 28	Baylor	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	Missouri	7 p.m.
Oct. 7	Kansas	1 p.m.
Oct. 17	Brigham Young	7 p.m.
Oct. 28	Texas Tech	1 p.m.
Nov. 2	Iowa State	7 p.m.



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All Nebraska soccer home games at Abbott Sports Complex, located 1 1/2 miles north of Cornhusker Hwy. on 70th St. All times are central and subject to change.

## Nebraska Volleyball 2001 Home Schedule

Sept. 7	Pepperdine	7 p.m.
Sept. 8	Notre Dame	1 p.m.
Sept. 9	UCLA	3:30 p.m.
Sept. 15	Texas Tech	7 p.m.
Sept. 25	Creighton	7 p.m.
Sept. 26	Iowa State	7 p.m.
Oct. 3	Missouri	7 p.m.
Oct. 6	Oklahoma (Devaney)	TBA
Oct. 17	Brigham Young	7 p.m.
Oct. 10	Kansas	7 p.m.
Oct. 17	Texas	7 p.m.
Oct. 27	Kansas State	TBA
Nov. 7	Texas A&M	7 p.m.
Nov. 17	Baylor	7 p.m.
Nov. 21	Colorado	7 p.m.



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All Nebraska volleyball home games at NU Coliseum unless noted. All times are central and subject to change.



## Healthy And Happy

*Junior strongside linebacker Shanle enjoying his best season at Nebraska*



**Terry DOUGLASS**

AFTER SUFFERING THROUGH an entire season playing in pain, Nebraska's Scott Shanle is finally getting to show what he can do when he's healthy.

Shanle, the Cornhuskers' 6-foot-2, 235-pound junior strongside linebacker, played nearly all of last season with a lower abdomen injury now termed athletic pubalgia by the training staff. It's the same type of injury that sidelined former Nebraska I-back DeAngelo Evans in 1997 and will

apparently end the season of backup rover Lannie Hopkins this year.

Just having the injury is painful enough. Trying to play with it, as Shanle did, is another thing. Although he was able to make it through last year and play in all of Nebraska's games, Shanle said he was often operating at less than full speed.

"Last year, in the back of my mind, I was constantly worried about if I had enough speed, enough agility to cover guys for an entire game," Shanle said. "Any more, just the way I feel in games and during practice, I have so much confidence that I can run and cover with anybody I might face."

With some time to heal and offseason rehabilitation, Shanle said this season has been much more enjoyable. It's showing on the field, as Shanle was among his team's top tacklers with 28 total stops through six games.

"Any time that you can go out there and know that your body is going to allow you to make plays that you know you can make, there's so much more confidence that goes into that," said Shanle, who had 55 tackles last season. "Any time that you have confidence that you can make those plays, it's going to help you out that much more."

On Sept. 29 against Missouri, Shanle had a career-best four pass breakups in NU's 36-3 win and was the Huskers' leader with eight tackles. Shanle set the tone for the day by recording three tackles — one for a 5-yard loss — and two breakups on Missouri's first two drives while covering All-Big 12 tight end candidate Dwayne Blakley for most of the contest.

Shanle became the first linebacker at Nebraska to record four pass breakups in a game. That also tied Shanle for fourth on the NU single-game list with three others and earned him Big 12 Conference defensive player of the week honors.

"I thought Scott Shanle was really a warrior," Nebraska defensive coordinator Craig Bohl said after the Missouri game. "They went after him several times down the field, and he responded most every time."

It's somewhat ironic that Shanle would set Nebraska's linebacker record for pass breakups. That's because his playing time is often limited when the Huskers face pass-oriented teams, and the NU coaching staff opts to replace him

with an extra defensive back. For instance, during last year's game at pass-happy Texas Tech, Shanle played only a handful of snaps against the Red Raiders' spread offense.

Still, Shanle tries to keep a good attitude about his situation.

"It's something where I can't control what style of offense the other team is using, so I just try and do my best when I'm in there," Shanle said. "When a defensive back comes in to take my place, I wish him well because we're a unit out there. We're all together, and it doesn't matter who is making the plays as long as they get made."

Shanle was pleased to be honored by the Big 12 but said that he had to share credit with the entire defense.

"It felt real good," Shanle said. "Any time you get an award like that, though, it's got to be a tribute to your entire team. Without the other guys out there helping me, none of that could've been accomplished."

Nebraska's tight ends also share in the credit. Shanle said covering players like Tracey Wistrom, Aaron Golliday and Jon Bowling in practice is usually a more difficult task than what he faces on game days.

"They give me the looks in practice all week," Shanle said. "So when I go into games, I have the confidence that I can cover anybody."

All-Big 12 tight end Wistrom said he doesn't face many linebackers who can match Shanle's pass coverage ability.

"There aren't many teams that feel comfortable putting their (strongside) linebacker 1-on-1 with the opposing team's tight end, but Scott is the type of linebacker that can definitely do that," Wistrom said. "He showed that against Missouri. He's done a great job all season."

Middle linebacker Jamie Burrow said he's always considered Shanle the best linebacker in

the program. Burrow said that just comparing linebackers by their number of tackles is misleading because he and weakside linebacker Mark Vedral don't have as many pass coverage responsibilities.

"Scott is locked in on coverage so much, he doesn't get as many tackles as maybe Mark or I do, but I think he's definitely the best linebacker on the team," Burrow said. "He has great athletic ability. He's a big kid, and it's fun to watch Scott compete out there on Saturdays."

Being able to help out his homestate Huskers was all that Shanle ever wanted growing up. Little extras such as winning Big 12 Conference defensive player of the week honors are just icing on the cake for a former eight-man football player and walk-on from St. Edward.

"I always felt that I had the physical ability to play here, but winning any kind of individual awards was the last thing I was thinking of," Shanle said. "The only thing I ever dreamed that I would be able to do here is contribute to this program and help this football team win games. That was all I ever wanted." ■



**Scott Shanle is in his second season as a starting linebacker.**

**Terry Douglass** is the sports editor of the Grand Island Independent. He can be reached at [tdbdouglass@netzero.net](mailto:tdbdouglass@netzero.net).



## Complete Package

*Big 12 teams looking for multi-talented quarterbacks*



**Curt McKEEVER**

TEXAS QUARTERBACK CHRIS SIMMS began the year hyped as a Heisman Trophy favorite. But as teams are reaching the halfway point of the season and beyond, the Longhorns' junior probably is a long-shot to be the All-Big 12 quarterback.

That's not really a knock against Simms, but more a statement of how loaded the conference is with talent at that position.

Consider that after the second week of conference play, Nebraska's Eric Crouch was the top-rated passer in the Big 12 (really!) — and also the conference's fifth-leading rusher.

Iowa State's Seneca Wallace, a first-team junior college All-American last year, was No. 2 in passing and No. 13 in rushing.

And while Texas Tech's Kliff Kingsbury was first in total offense (primarily because the Red Raiders throw the ball way more than any other team), Wallace was second, Crouch fourth and Kansas State's Ell Roberson sixth.

It sure looks like the trend is to go after a more complete player.

"There's an understanding that you don't have to be the prototype 6-4, 6-5, 230-pound quarterback who just drops back in the pocket and throws the ball," Nebraska Coach Frank Solich said when asked what attributes today's standout quarterbacks need. "I think what teams are looking for more and more are those guys that have those kind of arms that you can develop a great dropback passing game with, but yet have very good movement."

"You see a lot of that around the country, where not only are you getting the guy that can throw the ball, but there's also plays designed for those guys to get outside the pocket and throw on the run. And if they're forced to scramble or if they want to run quarterback draws, all that leads to really opening up your offense."

Solich's stance is that the Big 12 has always been deep in quarterback talent. But looking around the league this season can almost be overwhelming.

There's Crouch, now the NCAA's leader in rushing touchdowns by a quarterback.

"He's the fastest quarterback in the Big 12, by far, probably close to being the fastest in the nation," Iowa State linebacker Justin Eilers said after the NU senior ran for four touchdowns against the Cyclones. "He's the complete package."

There's Roberson, a sophomore, who in his third start totaled 372 yards in a 38-37 loss at defending national champion Oklahoma.

"You could tell he was starting his first (Big 12) game, but he played that like a veteran," marveled Colorado Coach Gary Barnett. "He's such a great runner. He's so strong he breaks so many tackles. But then he can also throw the ball. The flick of his wrist, and that ball's down there 55 yards."

Barnett has another big-time player in sophomore Craig Ochs.

Kansas redshirt freshman Mario Kinsey also has future star written all over his diverse game.

At Texas, the cupboard is so well-stocked that Major Applewhite, who holds 40 school records and was the 1999 Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year, is stuck behind Simms.

That development has caused plenty of raised eyebrows, but Simms has usually answered his critics.

Before Texas played Houston, Cougar defensive end Adrian Lee directed a verbal jab at the Longhorns, saying he was happy Simms was the starter because "if Applewhite gets in, he's smarter than Simms. We keep Simms in the game, the Coogs win."

Not exactly. Simms ended up passing for 311 yards to fuel a 53-26 win.

Oklahoma also has two quarterbacks who have proven to be winners. First-year starter Nate Hybl earned high marks for his big-play strikes against Kansas State. And when he was knocked out against Texas the following week, Jason White bailed the Sooners out with a headsy performance.

"He played exceptionally well, played smart taking care of the football," OU Coach Bob Stoops said. "It never fazed us when he went in there."

At Texas A&M, the Aggies aren't considered to be a dangerous offensive team. But after guiding them to a 5-0 record, junior quarterback Mark Farris stood third in the league in total offense.

Oklahoma State's Aso Pogi, Baylor's Greg Cicero and Missouri's Kirk Farmer also have shown they can take control of games.

"You don't find a team any more that doesn't have one that can't beat you — and that's from the very top to the very bottom," Solich said. "I think everybody understands that great play

from that position gives you your best chance."

No wonder the majority of Big 12 offenses are gunning to be in the area of a 50-50 balance between run and pass.

Even Baylor, which has unveiled a no-huddle offense that features shotgun sets, doesn't want Cicero just standing back in the pocket.

"A lot of people start talking about all these laundry lists of what makes a quarterback a winner, and what gets it done. But I think the thing that most jumps out as you are you've got to have mobility," Baylor Coach Kevin Steele said. "You've got to be an accurate thrower. And then you have to have the ability when put in the situation to make the big play. When those three things come about . . ."

Look out.

Yes, even Big 12 defenses that have made stopping the quarterback priority No. 1 should be on alert. ■



**Chris Simms led the Big 12 in pass efficiency as a sophomore.**

**Curt McKeever** is a sportswriter, covering the University of Nebraska for the Lincoln Journal Star. In addition to reporting on football he is the primary beat writer for the men's basketball and baseball teams.



# Hoping to

***Coaches look for connections to Nebraska when recruiting in Texas, elsewhere***

**By Mike Babcock**

**R**alph Brown's parents accompanied him on his recruiting trip to Nebraska. Since Ron Brown had discovered that Ralph's father liked popcorn about as much as he did, he made sure that they had some Colby Ridge popcorn to eat as they considered their son's football future.

Ralph's father was impressed not only by what he saw of the Cornhusker program but also by the taste of the popcorn. "He couldn't stop talking about Nebraska popcorn," Ron Brown said. "Every time we'd get on the phone and visit, he'd talk about Nebraska popcorn."

Ron Brown wasn't the assistant assigned to recruit California — Ralph was from Hacienda Heights. George Darlington has long recruited California. And he would be Ralph's position coach. But successful recruiting requires a team effort among coaches, and Ron Brown did his part.

"I'm not saying that's what got him," he said of his shared love of popcorn. "I'm saying you look for those little connections because that really helps break the ice for a family that wants to send their boy to a school far away. You just never know how it's going to work out."

Finding a connection, regardless of how insignificant it might seem, is essential to Brown's recruiting philosophy. "You have to be very pliable



Junior rush end Justin Smith (above) of Sherman, Texas, and senior cornerback Keyuo Craver (right) of Harleton, Texas, were members of Frank Solich's first recruiting class in 1998.

and flexible," he said. "You have to have your eyes and ears open. And I think when you get a connection with a kid, you really want to tap into it."

That holds true wherever he recruits. It applies in one state as well as in another. In that sense, at least, recruiting in California is the same as recruiting in Texas. Distance, climate and social considerations can enter into the process. But any hope of suc-

cess depends on finding a connection.

Brown is recruiting in Texas now, specifically the Houston area. And he doesn't plan to approach it any differently than he has in the other states to which he is assigned.

He needs to familiarize himself with Houston, so he can negotiate its expressways and find the schools he'll visit. And he must meet and get to know the area coaches.



# Connect



He went to Houston for the first time in the spring, and the high school coaches were "trying to figure me out a little bit," he said. "Sometimes you wonder if you're getting the information and all of the accessibility to an athlete and to film that you'd get if you knew a guy real well.

"Those are some of the battles you get (when) going into an area for the first time."

But Nebraska's reputation will open doors to him that might otherwise remain closed. "I think Nebraska speaks for itself," said Jeff Jamrog. "When you go into a school, normally the coach will be receptive to you. There aren't too many things they say negative about Nebraska."

Jamrog is recruiting west Texas and south Texas for the first time.

He'll have to drive greater distances than Brown to do his recruit-

---

## Scholarship Recruits from Texas

### 2001

Danieal Manning, CB, Corsicana

### 2000

Willie Amos, FS, Sweetwater

T.J. Hollowell, LB, Copperas Cove

Lannie Hopkins, ROV, Rowlett

Nick Povendo, OT, Keller

### 1999

None

### 1998

Keyuo Craver, CB, Harleton

Mike Demps, DB, Fort Worth

Justin Smith, RE, Sherman

---

ing in Texas. But he accepts that without complaint. "That's probably one of the advantages Nebraska football has had," he said. "We get to places that some people aren't willing to go because it is potentially time consuming."

Nebraska's success over the last four decades has depended on that willingness to pursue players from coast to coast, border to border, in the continental United States — and beyond. To accomplish that, each Cornhusker assistant has recruiting responsibilities in several areas.

"Because of our national visibility and the more sparsely populated area we live in, we spread ourselves out around the country," Brown said. "We have to scramble a little more than most staffs. We're away from home a little more. And we don't have as many guys hitting the same area."

Nevertheless, Brown and Jamrog are among three Nebraska assistants recruiting in Texas. Turner Gill is assigned to eastern Texas and the Dallas-Fort Worth area, from which he was once recruited.

Nebraska has maintained a recruiting presence in Texas since Tom Osborne succeeded Bob





Four members of the 2000 recruiting class came from Texas, including free safety Willie Amos (27, left) and linebacker T.J. Hollowell (17).

Devaney as head coach in 1973. Only five Texans earned letters during Devaney's 11 seasons at Nebraska, and two of those — Rudy Johnson and Willie Paschall — were already on campus when he arrived.

Johnson was from Aransas Pass. Paschall was from San Antonio.

At one time, the best high school players in Texas were inclined to remain there. But that has changed, and the Cornhuskers have managed to get at least one or two from the Lone Star state every year but four since 1973. Solich's scholarship recruiting classes have included eight Texans.

The high was four a year ago: Willie Amos (Sweetwater), T.J. Hollowell (Copperas Cove), Lannie Hopkins (Rowlett) and Nick Povendo (Keller). This year's class included only one, Danieal Manning (Corsicana). He'll enroll for second semester if he meets freshman eligibility requirements.

With a population of about 20 million and a unique affection for high school football, Texas is a fertile recruiting ground. "We definitely want to do a great job in Texas

because of the numbers, because of the Big 12 visibility that we have down there, the TV games and so forth," said Brown.

As a result of the formation of the Big 12, "I think the familiarity with Nebraska has increased a great deal. We're not a foreign nation to those people any more," he said.

Even so, distance can be a significant factor when recruiting in Houston.

"It seems like from what I've heard from other guys that have recruited Houston in the past from Nebraska that it's a little tougher nut to crack, simply because it seems to be geographically very different and longer from Houston that it is from north Texas, Dallas," Brown said.

Because of its deserved reputation as a hotbed of prep football, Texas has a mystique that must be taken into consideration in evaluating recruits. "You have this notion every guy down there is a brilliant, brilliant player," said Brown. "You have a tendency to think every guy is a big-timer.

"You've got to be very careful because you can over-rate a player if

you go in with a preconceived notion, a stereotype. You've got to watch film. You've got to do your work, find out what the deal's all about. You've got to really check out that will-come attitude and character."

To accomplish those things, a recruiter needs a connection, some type of tie-in.

Maybe someone in a prospect's family married somebody from Nebraska. Maybe a prospect had a teacher who came from Nebraska. Or maybe there's no way to explain the connection.

Abdul Muhammad picked Nebraska because he had become enamored with the "Triplets" — Gill, Mike Rozier and Irving Fryar — watching television as a youngster in Los Angeles.

"You look for those kinds of things," said Brown. "I've looked for kids who kind of have a natural heartbeat for Nebraska because they have to fly over some good schools to come here."

And if he can't find a heartbeat for Nebraska, the prospect's father might like popcorn. ■



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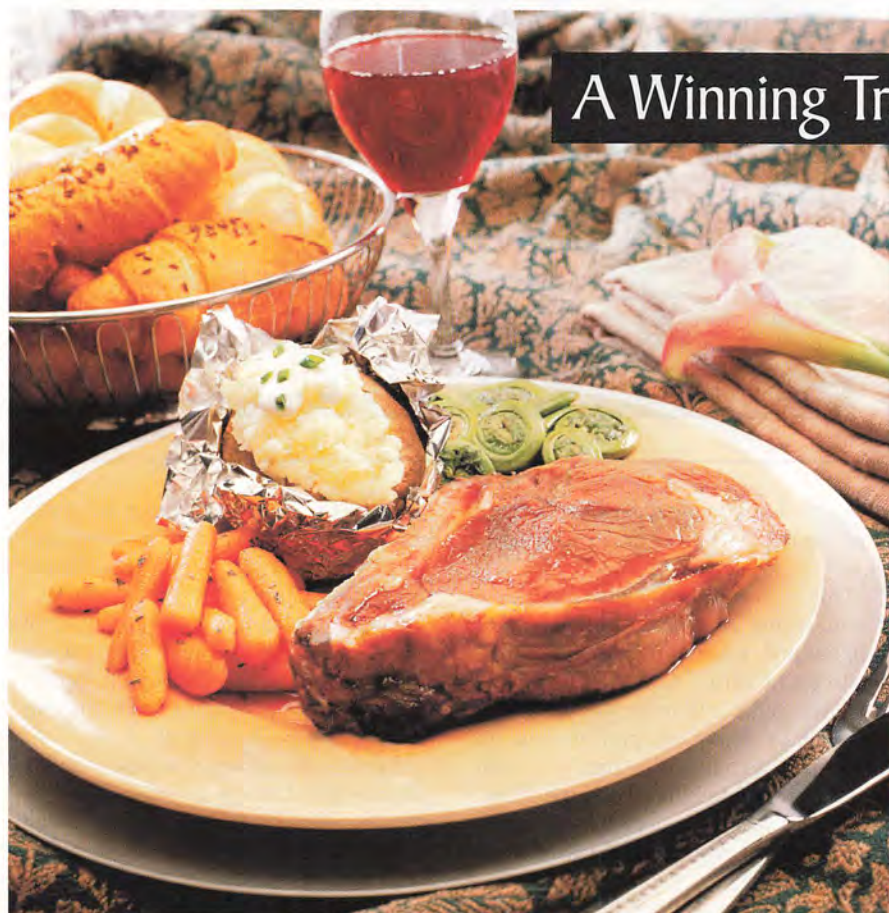
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# Always Ready

*When opponent scores, Huskers' Davis is prepared to do his job*

**M**idway through the first quarter of Nebraska's opening-game victory against TCU, Horned Frogs quarterback Casey Printers broke containment and tossed a 67-yard touchdown pass.

Considering the way in which the play developed, with Printers being forced to scramble, "no one would have ever thought they would score a touchdown," Josh Davis said.

"You've seen sometimes teams get lucky with this or that."

And Printers' touchdown pass was such a time, a this or that.

The play had immediate implications for Davis, who watched from the Cornhusker sideline. As soon as TCU had kicked the extra point, he ran onto the field to return the kickoff.

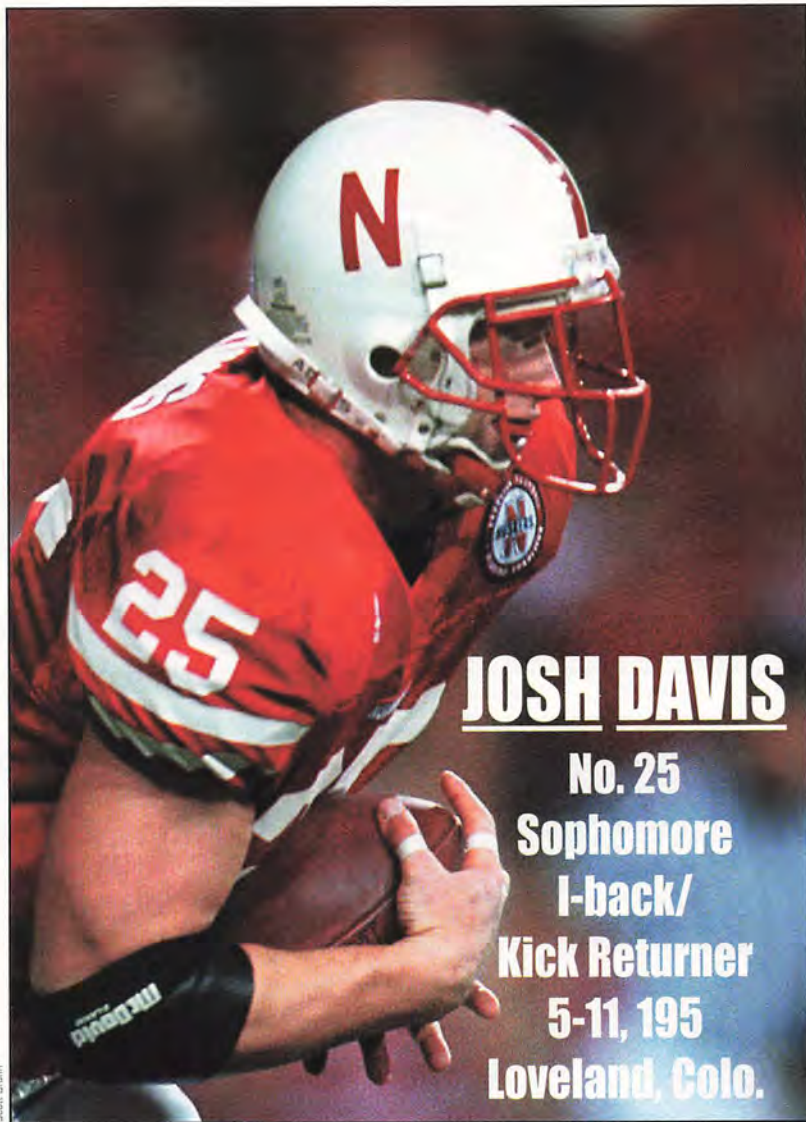
He was prepared to do his job, even though he had been just as surprised as everyone else.

"You never know when there's going to be an opportunity where you have to go in there, be ready to play," he said. "So you just have to warm up and keep yourself ready the whole game, keep yourself in tune to the game, what's going on. That way when a team does score . . . you're ready."

That attitude has served Davis, and Nebraska, well this season. After five games, the Cornhuskers ranked fifth in the Big 12 and 17th nationally in kickoff returns. That's a dramatic improvement from last season, when they ranked last in the conference and 105th nationally.

Coach Frank Solich has emphasized kickoff returns, and Davis has responded.

The sophomore from Loveland, Colo., is eager to fill any role after coming back from a knee injury suf-



**JOSH DAVIS**  
**No. 25**  
**Sophomore**  
**I-back/  
 Kick Returner**  
**5-11, 195**  
**Loveland, Colo.**

Scott Bruhn

fered during practice last October. He tore his left ACL and underwent surgery.

The recovery continues. "Sometimes during practice, there will be days where your knee will feel terrible," he said. "And then there will be days where it feels good. It just seems like there are phases you go through. Anybody that's been through it can tell you the same thing."

"There will be times where I'll be in the middle of practice and I won't feel it."

He does feel it when he's standing

around. But the good thing is, that's not very often. "I've been moving a lot during practice," he said. "They have us doing a lot of stuff."

Davis would like to be doing a lot more, of course. But he's still a ways down the depth chart at I-back, and as a result, his opportunities to play in games have been limited.

Even so, he's happy to be an I-back after a brief fling at rover in the spring. The temporary position switch was hampered by his recovery from the knee surgery, and another scope in April.



"I was still kind of hurt, and I wasn't able to do much," he said. "I really didn't feel like I was at rover that long. It just felt almost like an idea for how long I was there. I wasn't healthy and didn't really know the plays much." And besides, rover is "a tough position to learn."

So is running back. But he has experience there, as well as the bloodline. His father Tony was a fullback and I-back on former Coach Tom Osborne's first three teams.

Tony Davis was the third Cornhusker ever to rush for 1,000 or more yards in a season, gaining 1,008 yards as a sophomore in 1973. He moved from I-back to fullback for his final two seasons.

Tony was recently hired as president of Lincoln's indoor football team the Lightning. "That will be awesome," Josh said. "He's pretty excited about it."

Josh, the first in Nebraska's 1999 scholarship recruiting class to make an oral commitment, brought an impressive resume of his own. He was an all-class all-state running back at Loveland High, rushing for 1,422 yards and 21 touchdowns as a senior. He led the state's largest class in scoring.

Eight of his 31 touchdowns came on punt and kickoff returns — four each.

"I've been doing kick returns since I've been playing football," he said.

Returning a kickoff is "just like any other offensive play," said Davis, a high school sprinter. "It feels like you're getting a handoff and going through the hole. You have the whole field.

"You've got blockers in front of you, so you just pick a seam and run."

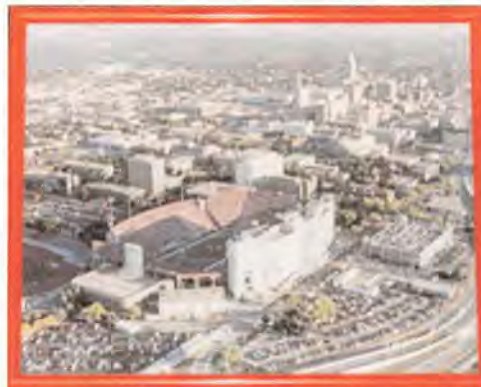
As with any offensive play, a kickoff return is planned. Davis knows which way he's going to run when he takes the field. The only way that would change is if "I see something on the back side that's drastically open. Otherwise, I'll stay with it," he said. "Usually it works out well."

He returned the opening kickoff in the Notre Dame game 33 yards to give the Cornhuskers good field position — on which they quickly capitalized to take a 7-0 lead.

He discarded the plan on that return. "I ran to the 'play side' and it seemed like they (defenders) were keying on that side. They were all just folding down to the right and there was just a huge gap on the outside, so I bounced off and ran around to the outside," he said. "It was open." ■

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# Husker Fans Earn Praise

***Florida State  
Coach Bowden  
impressed by  
treatment his  
team received***

***By Mike Babcock***

**T**he week after the Nebraska-Florida State game at Memorial Stadium in 1980, newspapers in Lincoln and Omaha published an open letter from Seminoles Coach Bobby Bowden.

"I have never seen people with more class than I saw at Nebraska last week," Bowden said in the letter, which was dated Oct. 8. "The Nebraska fans, players, cheerleaders, band, officials, coaches, etc. gave me a living testimony of what college football should be all about."

The letter was unusual, not only because the busy coach of a nationally ranked football team took the time to write it but also because it followed an 18-14 Florida State victory.

Bowden and his team had been treated so well by disappointed Cornhusker fans that he felt compelled to write, concluding: "I hope we show half the class your people do."

That letter as much as anything over the course of a continuing NCAA record of 244 consecutive



**Florida State Coach Bobby Bowden greets Nebraska's Tom Osborne. The two are among the winningest college coaches of all time. Bowden's teams won six of the eight meetings, including all four bowl games. Four of the losses were by four or fewer points.**

sellouts solidified Nebraska's reputation for knowledgeable and gracious fans.

It's a reputation that can still be supported, despite occasional incidents, such as the booing of quarterback Scott Frost near the end of the first half of the Central Florida game in 1997.

Nebraska's national title aspirations were as great in 1980 as they are now. And the Cornhuskers were off to a good start, winning three in row to climb to No. 3 in the Associated Press poll.

Florida State, which was coming

off an 11-1 season that ended with a 24-7 Orange Bowl loss against Oklahoma, came to Lincoln with a 3-1 record and a No. 16 ranking, after losing at Miami the previous Saturday, 10-9. The loss was the Seminoles' first in 19 regular-season games.

During the week before the game, Bowden lamented the fact that Miami had "whipped" his team physically and that Nebraska's style of play was similar to that of the Hurricanes.

Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne dismissed Bowden's lament as "typi-



## Great Games at Memorial Stadium

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Nebraska continues to enjoy amazing success in the friendly confines of Memorial Stadium. Entering the 2001 season, the Huskers are 81-3 at home the last 13 years and carry a streak of 239 consecutive sellouts. Since it opened in 1923, Memorial Stadium has been the site of many great games. In each issue during the 2001 season, Huskers Illustrated will feature one of those games.

cal for that part of the country. It sounds a little like another guy down in Alabama who talks humble, too," said Osborne.

He was referring to Crimson Tide Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant.

If Osborne didn't have enough to occupy his attention in the days leading up to the game, a mid-week headline in the Lincoln Journal said: "NU's Osborne would consider Notre Dame."

The story was based on comments Osborne made in response to questions at a breakfast in Omaha. Notre Dame Coach Dan Devine had announced that he would be stepping aside at season's end, and Osborne had addressed the issue of his being a candidate to replace Devine.

"I don't think a single person left that meeting feeling that I was looking for a job at Notre Dame," Osborne told the Journal a day later. "But that article would lead people

to believe I am."

Osborne was adamant that he wasn't pursuing any other jobs. "The first game I coached was here at Nebraska, and I expect the last game I coach will be here, too," he said.

The Notre Dame controversy followed a claim by Iowa Coach Hayden Fry that former Cornhusker assistant Jerry Moore, the head coach at North Texas State, had provided Nebraska with film of North Texas State and SMU games to study before the Cornhuskers defeated Iowa 57-0.

Fry had coached at North Texas State and SMU, and his implication

was that there had been something unethical about Moore's providing Nebraska with the game films.

Fry's remarks drew the ire of Nebraska Athletic Director Bob Devaney. "I think when you get beat 57-0, you ought to keep your mouth shut and say how good the other team was," he said.

While Osborne ignored Fry's words and encouraged his players to ignore Bowden's words, national attention focused on Las Vegas, where three-time champion Muhammad Ali came out of a two-year retirement to fight former sparring partner Larry Holmes for the



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WBC heavyweight title.

A closed-circuit telecast of the fight at Lincoln's Pershing Municipal Auditorium attracted 1,500, at \$25 to \$30 a ticket. Holmes won when Ali didn't come out for the 11th round.

The afternoon before the Florida State game, Nebraska fans got their first look at members of what was considered the best recruiting class in Osborne's eight seasons when the Cornhusker jayvees made short work of the Nebraska-Omaha jayvees, winning 45-0 at Memorial Stadium.

Freshman quarterback Turner Gill completed 5-of-7 passes for 136 yards and two touchdowns in the victory. All of the completions were to freshman wingback Irving Fryar.

The Nebraska jayvees' first series was typical. They scored in three plays, the third a 30-yard, Gill-to-Fryar pass. "We need consistency in terms of long drives," said freshman coach Frank Solich.

The next day, the Cornhusker varsity was a little more methodical offensively, but just as effective early on, taking a 14-0 lead against Florida

State with 6:30 remaining in the first half on a pair of touchdown passes from quarterback Jeff Quinn to split end Todd Brown.

But Nebraska wouldn't score again, while Florida State was fashioning 18 points on Bill Capece field goals of 32, 27, 40 and 41 yards and a third-quarter touchdown set up by a pass interception.

The Cornhuskers dominated the statistics and had a chance to win at the end. They had the ball at the Florida State 3-yard line with 17 seconds remaining, time enough for as many as three plays.

On the first play, however, Seminole linebacker Paul Piurowski ignored his responsibility — covering the fullback on a pass play — and broke through untouched to tackle Quinn. As Quinn went down, unable to throw the ball away and stop the clock, he fumbled and Florida State's Gary Futch recovered.

"I wasn't supposed to penetrate at all," Piurowski told reporters afterward. "But Coach Bowden says that when you make a mistake, you should go full-speed and make the

play as best you can."

Piurowski, who would undergo an appendectomy four days later, finished with 22 tackles, including 13 unassisted, and was named the national defensive player of the week for his effort.

Despite the disappointment of the first of what would be two Nebraska losses that season — the Oklahoma game was the other — Osborne maintained a sense of humor.

"We spent so much time breaking down North Texas State and SMU films, we didn't have any time to spend on Florida State," he said at the weekly Extra Point Club luncheon.

Bowden called the victory possibly the biggest in Florida State's 34-year football history.

"This was a big win for us," he said, adding: "They'll kill us next year."

The Cornhuskers won the next season at Memorial Stadium 34-14. Bowden didn't write another letter commending Nebraska's fans. But he didn't need to. His point had been made. ■

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# Nebraska 48

# Baylor 7



Nebraska safety Dion Booker (14) tackles Baylor quarterback Greg Cicero after a short gain in the first quarter, as teammate T.J. Hollowell (17) moves in. (Photo by Kelly Lemons/Waco Tribune-Herald)



## Husker Player of the Game

### Backs Credit Offensive Line

As usual, the offensive line labored in relative anonymity.

Much of the attention focused on the fact that four Cornhuskers rushed for 100 or more yards to tie an NCAA record.

But the beneficiaries of the line's labor were quick to give credit where it was due.

Nebraska rushed for 641 yards, the most ever under Coach Frank Solich and the second most all-time, behind 677 against New Mexico State in 1982.

"When you have 600 yards, that means they're knocking people on the ground," full-back Judd Davies said of the offensive linemen.

He finished with 119 yards and two touchdowns on 12 carries.

"I saw green jerseys on the ground all day," said I-back Thunder Collins, the game's leading rusher with 165 yards on just 13 carries — an average of 12.7 per carry.

The starters in the line set the tone: tackles Dave Volk and Dan Vili Waldrop, guards Toniu Fonoti and Jon Rutherford and center John Garrison. "That's a tribute to our backs," Volk said.

"We're happy to be a part of it," Fonoti said. "I'm glad for them."

However, "we take a lot of pride in that, too, doing our job," he said. ■



Dave Volk



Toniu Fonoti



John Garrison



Jon Rutherford



Dan Waldrop

## Fumble-plagued Huskers finally run away from Bears on rainy day in Waco

By Mike Babcock  
Photos by Waco  
Tribune-Herald

**T**he skies over Floyd Casey Stadium had begun to lighten as Eric Crouch lifted the burden on fumble-plagued Nebraska by pushing the ball across the goal line with 2:00 remaining in the third quarter.

The touchdown, Crouch's second of three, ended the drama that never should have been, setting off a deluge of touchdowns in the fourth quarter of the Cornhuskers' 48-7 victory.

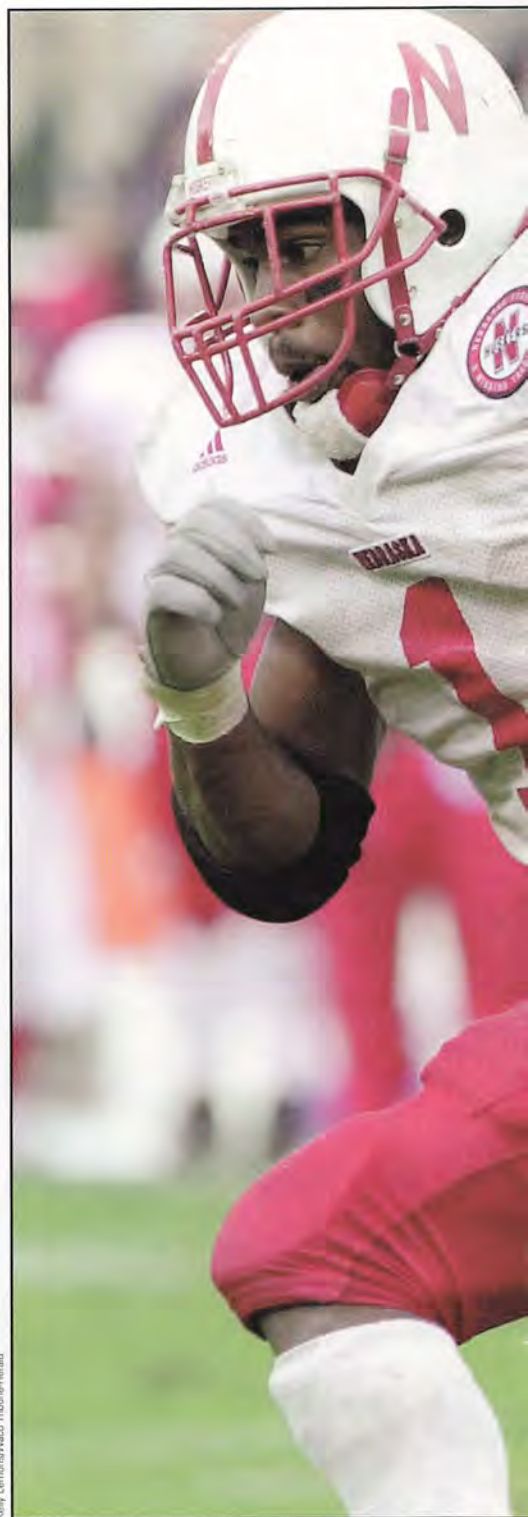
Crouch did the honors. But the touchdown probably should have been credited to I-back Thunder Collins, who carried six times for 54 yards on the 11-play, 88-yard drive.

The junior from Los Angeles could take credit for more than a quarter of Nebraska's 641 rushing yards, gaining 165 on 13 carries. But he was most interested in how they were gained.

"I got kind of tired of people saying I'm running kind of pretty, and I'm afraid of contact," he said. "Everybody has a part of their game to work on. I just tried to make a statement today."

Collins ran hard, rarely avoiding contact on a day not particularly fit for man nor beast.

A cold, wind-driven rain soaked the grass field, and some hearty fans, throughout the first half. And lightning forced a 36-minute suspension



Kelly Lemons/Waco Tribune-Herald

midway through the second quarter.

If not for the discomfort with which an announced crowd of 38,102 had to deal, the afternoon would have



# and Lightning



Nebraska I-back Thunder Collins breaks loose for a 50-yard run in the fourth quarter. Giving chase is Baylor's Marcus Stenix. Collins was the game's leading rusher with 165 yards

For entertainment purposes only, Nebraska was favored by about 33 points.

"It was a real bizarre game," said fullback Judd Davies.

In addition to the fumbles, the lightning delay, the first-half rain, the 641 rushing yards and four Cornhusker rushers with more than 100 yards, Nebraska's defense got a shutout that really wasn't.

Baylor scored a touchdown, but not against the Blackshirts. Rather, the Bears got on the scoreboard when linebacker Stephen Sepulveda recovered an Eric Crouch fumble in the end zone.

Sepulveda's touchdown, less than a minute after play resumed following the lightning delay, created the impression that the Cornhuskers were pushed harder than they really were.

Because of the fumbles, "it was not an easy game on coaches," Coach Frank Solich said. "There were a lot of missed opportunities. We've got to clean that (fumbling) up.

"We've been talking about that since the beginning of the season."

Nebraska's defense did its best to offset the fumble problems, forcing four turnovers: three pass interceptions and a fumble recovery. "The defense played a great game," said Solich.

That even though the unsure footing forced the secondary to back off receivers.

"It wasn't, obviously, a perfect game," defensive backs coach George Darlington said.

But Baylor managed only 187 total yards, just 29 of which came on the ground. Erwin Swiney broke up five passes to tie a school single-game record, and Keyuo Craver broke up three passes and intercepted another, as did Lornell McPherson and Wes

been a headline writer's dream, a story of Thunder and lightning.

It also was a story of how the Cornhuskers could lose five-of-seven

fumbles, allow an overmatched Baylor team to overachieve for the better part of three quarters, and still cover the spread.



Woodward, on the game's final play.

Demoiné Adams contributed 2.5 sacks as the Cornhuskers disrupted Baylor's passing game.

Nebraska's passing game wasn't so much disrupted as abandoned. Crouch threw only one pass in the second half, completing it to tight end Tracey Wistrom for a 15-yard gain, on the four-play, 80-yard series that increased the score to 28-7 and effectively eliminated the last vestige of Baylor hope.

"I don't know that we were emotionally at a peak," Solich said. "I think that's OK. You're going to have a few ups and downs in a season. But we're pretty even-keeled."

Even though the Cornhuskers "didn't have a great week of practice, we came out and executed really well," said offensive tackle Dave Volk. "It was kind of a strange day, you know?"

He could have been referring to the large red M&M dancing beyond the south end zone in the third quarter or the Bullwinkle Moose head formed by the Baylor marching band at halftime, as it played the theme song from the cartoon series "Rocky and His Friends." But he wasn't.

The strangest thing was probably the 36-minute break, which occurred with 7:34 remaining in the first half. "We used it as we would a halftime," Solich said. "We had plenty of time to prepare."

"It helped us get organized a little and to talk about holding onto the ball."

Collins was about as proud of the fact that he held onto the ball as he was with his first 100-yard rushing performance at Nebraska — for which he thanked the offensive linemen.

"They don't really get that much credit," he said. "But they make it happen."

The Cornhusker fans that made the trip to Waco, Texas deserved some credit, too. Based on the ratio of Nebraska red to Baylor green, they comprised about half of the crowd.

During the lightning delay, much of the crowd cleared out. But most returned.

The official attendance of 38,102 represented tickets sold, not actual attendees. Floyd Casey Stadium's listed capacity is 50,000 and no way was it three-quarters full. That was another



After struggling to score for most of the first three quarters, the Nebraska offense gave its fans a lot to cheer about in the fourth quarter. Quarterback Eric Crouch broke loose for a 44-yard run (above) to highlight a four-play, 80-yard drive that pushed the Huskers' lead to 28-7 early in the fourth quarter. Thousands of Nebraska fans (right) battled the elements before and waited out a 36-minute lightning delay in the first half.

er element of the unusual, a Nebraska football game played in a half-empty stadium. And also, the game wasn't televised, which means fewer people watched it than any game in recent Cornhusker history.

By game's end, you could see downtown Waco above the rim of the stadium to the east. And the sun was beginning to push aside the clouds — and dry out the fans.

"It went kind of full-circle," said Davies, who would have added a sense of symmetry by scoring the game's first and last touchdowns — if Josh Davis hadn't run 13 yards to score with 21 seconds left. ■







# 4TH & 1NCHES

*Notes And Quotes From The Baylor Game*

## TOTAL TOUCHDOWNS

Tommie Frazier, a Baylor assistant coach, was standing near the 50-yard line when Eric Crouch scored his third touchdown of the game on a 4-yard run with 8:07 remaining in the fourth quarter.

Frazier turned his back on the play and walked the other way.

With that touchdown, Crouch broke Frazier's Cornhusker career record for total offense touchdowns. Crouch now has 80, including an NCAA record for quarterbacks of 54.

During his weekly news conference on the Tuesday before the game, Nebraska Coach Frank Solich was asked to compare Crouch and Frazier. "There are similarities," he said. "They both are mentally and physically tough football players, and that will carry you a long, long way.

"I think that's obvious to us as coaches. It's obvious to their teammates, and consequently, they get such respect from their teammates. Then, you look at them athletically, Eric has more speed, but Frazier had great ability to make you miss and was very strong and very physical as a runner."

Crouch is a physical runner, too, said Solich. "Tommie was a little bit bigger than Eric is in terms of weight, but the intangible of just being able to make things happen is there for both of them.

"So there are a lot of similarities."

Crouch is now 31-5 as a starter, becoming just the 23rd quarterback in NCAA Division I-A history with 31 victories as a starter. He is second to Frazier on Nebraska's all-time list. Frazier was 33-3 in his four seasons as a Husker (1992-95).

## NO DEJUAN

Junior cornerback DeJuan Groce made the trip to Waco but didn't play because of bruised ribs. Senior Erwin Swiney replaced him the starting lineup and broke up five passes. "Certainly DeJuan is a big part of our secondary," said defensive backs coach George Darlington. "We had to scramble a little."

Free safety Willie Amos returned to action after missing three games with a hamstring problem.

## FEW SAW IT

The announced attendance at Floyd Casey Stadium of 38,102 was the smallest audience for a game in which the Cornhuskers have played since a game at Texas Tech in 1994. Attendance in Lubbock for that game was 32,768. The Nebraska-Baylor game in Waco in 1997 drew 38,175.

The 1997 Baylor game also was played in the rain, at night.

## DELAY

The last time Nebraska played in a game that was delayed was in 1997, when a bank of lights went out at Memorial Stadium in Lawrence during a night game against Kansas. The last time the Cornhuskers were involved in a game delayed by inclement weather was 1991, when Nebraska and Utah State waited for 19 minutes before resuming play at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln.

## OOPS

Baylor's lone touchdown came when linebacker Stephen Sepulveda recovered the Crouch fumble in the end zone. "They started to run the option. All of a sudden a few guys fell on me, and the whistle blew," said Sepulveda, a 6-foot-2, 216-pound sophomore who was credited with seven tackles.

## EARNED RESPECT

Nebraska figured to move up in the rankings after Florida lost. The No. 4-ranked Cornhuskers "are a great team," said Baylor wide receiver Reggie Newhouse. "They gave us a lot of stuff."

Sepulveda was of the same opinion. "They're a great team, and well coached," he said.

## FORMULA FOR AN UPSET

Baylor Coach Kevin Steele, a former Cornhusker assistant, said "to beat Nebraska, you have to win the turnover battle, kicking game, and you can't let their defense score."

And sometimes even those things aren't enough.

Nebraska turned over the ball one more time than Baylor did. The kicking game was probably a wash evaluated statistically, and the Cornhusker defense didn't score — though it played well.

"We went out there with a mission, to try and get something done," said Steele. "It wouldn't have surprised us if we had won. This football team will bounce back. They're winners." ■



# 2001 Schedule

(Team's current record)

1	Aug. 25	TCU (3-3), W 21-7	1-0
2	Sept. 1	Troy State (2-3), W 42-14	2-0
3	Sept. 8	Notre Dame (2-3), W 27-10	3-0
4	Sept. 20	Rice (5-1), W 48-3	4-0
5	Sept. 29	@ Missouri (2-3), W 36-3	5-0
6	Oct. 6	Iowa State (4-1), W 48-14	6-0
7	Oct. 13	@ Baylor (2-3), W 48-7	7-0
8	Oct. 20	Texas Tech (3-2), Homecoming, TBA	
9	Oct. 27	Oklahoma (6-0), TBA	
10	Nov. 3	@ Kansas (2-3), TBA	
11	Nov. 10	Kansas State (2-3), TBA	
12	Nov. 23	@ Colorado (5-1), 2:30 p.m., ABC	
	Dec. 1	Big 12 Championship at Irving, Texas, 7 p.m., ABC	

## Big 12 at a Glance

North				All	
	Conf.				
Nebraska	3	0		7	0
Colorado	3	0		5	1
Iowa State	2	1		4	1
Kansas	1	2		2	3
Missouri	1	2		2	3
Kansas State	0	3		2	3
South				All	
	Conf.				
Oklahoma	3	0		6	0
Texas	2	1		5	1
Texas A&M	2	1		5	1
Texas Tech	1	2		3	2
Baylor	0	3		2	3
Oklahoma State	0	3		2	4

### Oct. 13 results

Nebraska 48, Baylor 7  
Oklahoma 38, Kansas 10  
Texas Tech 38, Kansas State 19  
Colorado 31, Texas A&M 21  
Iowa State 20, Missouri 14  
Texas 45, Oklahoma State 17

### Nonconference opponents

Notre Dame 34, West Virginia 24  
Tulane 48, TCU 22  
Rice 21, Navy 13  
Troy State 21, Mississippi State 9

## Upcoming Opponents' Schedules

Texas Tech (3-2)	
Sept. 8	New Mexico, W 42-30
Sept. 22	North Texas (Irving), W 42-14
Sept. 29	at Texas, L 42-7
Oct. 6	Kansas, L 34-31, 2 ot
Oct. 13	Kansas State, W 38-19
Oct. 20	at Nebraska
Oct. 27	at Baylor
Nov. 3	Texas A&M
Nov. 10	at Oklahoma State
Nov. 17	Oklahoma
Nov. 24	Stephen Austin
Oklahoma (6-0)	
Aug. 25	North Carolina, W 41-27
Sept. 1	at Air Force, W 44-3
Sept. 8	North Texas, W 37-10
Sept. 29	Kansas State, W 38-37
Oct. 6	vs. Texas (Dallas), W 14-3
Oct. 13	at Kansas, W 38-10
Oct. 20	Baylor
Oct. 27	at Nebraska
Nov. 3	Tulsa
Nov. 10	Texas A&M
Nov. 17	at Texas Tech
Nov. 24	Oklahoma State

## Game 8

### Texas Tech

**Oct. 20 (Homecoming)**

**Location:** Lubbock, Texas

**Enrollment:** 24,185

**2001 record:** 3-2

**Coach:** Mike Leach, 2nd year

**Series:** Nebraska leads 6-0



**Time TBA**

**Memorial Stadium, Lincoln, Neb.**

### Red Raider to Watch

**Junior quarterback Kliff Kingsbury**, coming off a thumb injury, completed 32 of 47 passes for 409 yards and 3 touchdowns as the Red Raiders handed Kansas State its third straight loss. Kingsbury's total was the most passing yardage ever allowed by KSU. In 5 games, he has completed 160 of 236 passes (67.8 percent) for 1,561 yards and 11 touchdowns. He has been intercepted 5 times.



### Quick Facts

**Senior tailback Ricky Williams** is Tech's leading rusher and receiver. He has rushed for 324 yards and 4 touchdowns and caught 41 passes for 315 yards and 2 TDs. Williams is the fourth Red Raider to rush for more than 3,000 yards, joining Byron Hanspard (4,219), James Gray (4,066) and Byron Morris (3,544).

**Mike Leach**, in his second season as head coach at Texas Tech, was credited with helping resurrect the Oklahoma offense. In his one season as offensive coordinator, OU improved from 11th in the Big 12 in 1998 to first in 1999, 101st in the nation to 11th.

**Last year in Lubbock**, Nebraska handed Tech a 56-3 loss, its worst in school history.

## On Deck

### Oklahoma Oct. 27

**Location:** Norman, Okla.

**Enrollment:** 26,844

**2001 record:** 6-0

**Coach:** Bob Stoops, 3rd year

**Series:** Oklahoma leads 40-36-3

**Time TBA**

**Memorial Stadium, Lincoln, Neb.**





# Tentative 2 Deeps

## NEBRASKA OFFENSE

SE	9	Wilson Thomas**	6-6	215	Jr.
	81	Ben Cornelsen*	5-10	190	Jr.
LT	58	Dave Volk***	6-5	300	Sr.
	73	Scott Koethe*	6-5	310	Jr.
LG	77	Toni Fonoti**	6-4	340	Jr.
	74	Steve Altstadt*	6-5	295	Sr.
C	52	John Garrison**	6-4	285	Jr.
	53	Matt Shook*	6-2	300	Jr.
RG	66	Jon Rutherford***	6-3	300	Sr.
	59	Wes Cody*	6-2	295	Jr.
RT	68	Dan Waldrop*	6-5	330	So.
	66	Jon Rutherford***	6-3	300	Sr.
TE	87	Tracey Wistrom***	6-5	240	Sr.
	99	Aaron Golliday**	6-4	285	Jr.
QB	7	Eric Crouch***	6-1	200	Sr.
	10	Jammal Lord*	6-2	215	So.
FB	4	Judd Davies*	6-0	240	So.
	45	Steve Kriewald	5-10	255	Fr.
IB	30	Dahrran Diedrick**	6-0	225	Jr.
	1	Thunder Collins*	6-2	190	Jr.
WB	8	John Gibson***	6-0	195	Sr.
	89	Troy Hassebrook**	6-4	220	Jr.
PK	26	Josh Brown**	6-2	190	Jr.

## NEBRASKA DEFENSE

LR	57	Chris Kelsay**	6-5	270	Jr.
	92	Justin Smith**	6-4	260	Jr.
NT	55	Jon Clanton**	6-2	280	Jr.
	59	Ryon Bingham	6-3	275	So.
DT	56	Jeremy Slechta***	6-6	285	Sr.
	85	Casey Nelson**	6-2	285	Sr.
RR	98	Demoinie Adams**	6-2	235	Jr.
	95	J.P. Wichmann**	6-4	230	Sr.
SLB	43	Scott Shanley**	6-2	235	Jr.
	47	Ira Cooper	6-2	220	Fr.
MLB	48	Jamie Burrow***	6-1	245	Sr.
	38	Barrett Ruud	6-2	220	Fr.
WLB	9	Mark Vadrak***	6-1	210	Sr.
	17	T.J. Hollowell*	6-0	220	So.
LCB	3	Keyuo Craver***	5-10	190	Sr.
	28	Pat Ricketts*	5-11	180	So.
FS	27	Willie Amos*	6-0	185	So.
or	14	Dion Booker***	6-1	205	Sr.
ROV	21	Philip Bland	6-0	205	Fr.
	2	Aaron Terpening**	5-11	200	Jr.
RCB	5	DeJuan Groce**	5-10	190	Jr.
or	16	Erwin Swiney***	6-0	185	Sr.
P	19	Kyle Larson	6-0	205	So.

## TEXAS TECH OFFENSE

LT	77	Paul Erickson***	6-5	294	Sr.
	60	Daniel Loper	6-7	309	Fr.
LG	56	Matt Heider**	6-4	310	Sr.
	64	Cody Campbell	6-4	302	Fr.
C	66	Toby Cecil*	6-4	295	So.
	57	Dylan Gandy	6-3	280	Fr.
RG	72	Rex Richards**	6-4	315	Jr.
	67	Lance Williams***	6-2	312	Sr.
RT	65	Casey Keck*	6-4	295	So.
	75	Jason May**	6-4	300	Sr.
QB	16	Kliff Kingsbury**	6-4	208	Jr.
	4	B.J. Symons*	6-1	194	So.
FB	2	Ricky Williams***	5-8	196	Sr.
	48	Foy Munlin*	5-10	219	So.
HB	48	Foy Munlin*	5-10	219	So.
	80	Clay McGuire	6-1	223	Fr.
XR	88	Nehemiah Glover	5-8	174	Fr.
	82	Carlos Francis*	5-9	192	So.
YR	84	Cole Roberts***	6-6	242	Sr.
	86	Mickey Peters*	6-3	201	So.
ZR	82	Carlos Francis*	5-9	192	So.
	19	Darrell Jones***	6-3	205	Sr.
K	32	Robert Treece	5-8	185	Jr.

## TEXAS TECH DEFENSE

DE	92	Josh Balfuff	6-4	245	Jr.
	95	Rodney McKinney	6-1	287	Jr.
DT	95	Rodney McKinney	6-1	287	Jr.
	71	Lamont Anderson**	6-2	285	Jr.
DT	99	Robert Wyatt**	6-2	311	Jr.
	97	Josh Page**	6-2	284	Jr.
DE	9	Aaron Hunt**	6-3	258	Jr.
	43	Rashon Raspberry*	6-2	259	Sr.
SLB	29	Toby Shain**	6-0	247	Jr.
	46	Mike Smith	6-2	218	Fr.
MLB	51	Lawrence Flugence**	6-2	235	Jr.
	35	Jeremy Woods	6-1	244	Fr.
BLB	47	Jonathan Hawkins***	5-11	232	Sr.
	30	Jason Wesley*	6-0	227	So.
CB	8	C.J. Johnson*	5-9	182	Sr.
	45	Ronald Ross**	5-11	189	Sr.
SS	31	Kevin Curtis***	6-3	217	Sr.
	28	Ryan Aycock*	6-0	198	So.
FS	6	Paul McClendon***	5-10	185	Sr.
	20	B.J. Johnson*	6-0	190	So.
CB	12	Joselio Hanson	5-9	167	Jr.
	21	Ricky Sailor	5-10	195	Jr.
P	18	Clinton Greathouse**	5-11	221	Jr.

# THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION

# NEBRASKA

vs.

# TEXAS TECH



OCT. 20, 2001

RED RAIDERS COULD BE TOUGHER THAN EXPECTED, BUT WILL STILL BE MAIN COURSE ON THIS WEEK'S BIG RED MENU!

# PICKS

## TEXAS TECH AT NEBRASKA

### Brian Hill Editor

Will the real Texas Tech please stand up? The Red Raiders lost to Kansas and then surprised Kansas State, both in Lubbock. Obviously, Nebraska will be peeking ahead to the Oklahoma game, but that shouldn't matter much. **Nebraska 47, Texas Tech 19**

### Mike Babcock Contributing Editor

The Texas Tech game will showcase the Big 12's best quarterback, and he doesn't play for the Red Raiders, Coach Mike Leach's assertions to the contrary. Texas Tech's only

hope of keeping the score respectable is that Nebraska will be looking ahead to Oklahoma, which isn't likely. **Nebraska 55, Texas Tech 10**

### Terry Douglass Grand Island (Neb.) Ind. Sports Editor

There's plenty of motivation for Texas Tech, which was embarrassed 56-3 by Nebraska last season in front of a home crowd at Lubbock. Also, the Huskers might be looking ahead with the Oklahoma game on the horizon — they're only human. Still, NU will have enough to ground coach Mike Leach's Air-Raid offense. **Nebraska 44, Texas Tech 20**



# BY THE NUMBERS

## Nebraska vs. Baylor

Oct. 13, 2001 • Floyd Casey Stadium • Waco, Texas

### Score By Quarters

<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Baylor</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>7</b>

### Team Stats

	<b>NU</b>	<b>BU</b>
First Downs	31	14
Rushing	27	4
Passing	3	8
Penalty	1	2
Rushing Attempts	73	33
Yards Gained Rushing	648	95
Yards Lost Rushing	7	66
Net Yards Rushing	641	29
Net Yards Passing	47	158
Passes Attempted	9	43
Passes Completed	4	15
Had Intercepted	0	3
Total Plays	82	76
Total Net Yards	688	187
Avg. Gain Per Play	8.4	2.5
Fumbles-Lost	7-5	4-1
Penalties-Yards	4-32	4-43
Punts-Yards	4-170	13-498
Avg. Per Punt	42.5	38.3
Punt Returns-Yards	8-68	2-20
Interceptions-Yards	3-16	0-0
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Kickoff Returns-Yards	3-85	7-125
Possession Time	32:54	27:06

### Scoring

**NU** — Judd Davies 42-yard run (Josh Brown kick)  
**NU** — Eric Crouch 9-yard run (Brown kick)  
**BU** — Stephen Sepulveda fumble recovery in end zone (Daniel Andino kick)  
**NU** — Crouch 1-yard run (Brown kick)  
**NU** — Dahrran Diedrick 8-yard run (Brown kick)  
**NU** — Crouch 4-yard run (Brown kick)  
**NU** — Davies 22-yard run (Sandro DeAngelis kick)  
**NU** — Josh Davis 13-yard run (DeAngelis run failed)  
**Att.** — 38,102  
**Temp.** — 56  
**Weather** — Light rain.



Dahrran Diedrick carried 20 times for 137 yards, the fourth time he has topped the century mark this season.

## 2001 SEASON STATS

### RUSHING

Name	G	Att.	Yds.	YPG	TD
Diedrick, D.	6	129	714	119.0	9
Crouch, E.	7	115	672	96.0	13
Collins, T.	7	61	439	62.7	4
Davies, J.	7	32	181	25.9	3
Grixby, D.	4	22	86	21.5	0
Kriewald, S.	7	12	65	9.3	0
Davis, J.	7	8	61	8.7	1
Lord, J.	5	20	41	8.2	1
Cornelsen, B.	6	2	33	5.5	0
Stuntz, M.	7	1	25	3.6	0

### PASSING

Name	G	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Crouch, E.	7	55-90-3	61.1	790	4
Lord, J.	5	5-8-1	62.5	65	0

### RECEIVING

Name	G	No.	Yds.	YPC	YPG	TD
Thomas, W.	7	18	318	17.7	45.4	1
Wistrom, T.	7	18	273	15.2	39.0	2
Gibson, J.	7	11	179	16.3	25.6	1
Collins, T.	7	9	66	7.3	9.4	0
Davies, J.	7	1	11	11.0	1.6	0
Klem, J.	6	1	9	9.0	1.5	0
Golliday, A.	6	1	4	4.0	0.7	0

### FIELD GOALS

Name	G	Att.	Good	Long
DeAngelis, S.	7	3	2	21
Brown, J.	6	2	1	38

### PUNTING

Name	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LNG
Larson, K.	29	1,283	44.2	60

### DEFENSE

Name	G	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	S/Yds.
Burrow, J.	7	11	30	41	8-15	0	1.5-9
Craver, K.	7	25	13	38	2-3	2-73	0
Ruud, B.	7	11	23	34	6-15	0	0.5-3
Vedral, M.	7	15	18	33	4-10	1-0	1-1
Booker, D.	7	19	12	31	1-1	0	0
Shanley, S.	7	14	17	31	5-21	0	2-14
Bland, P.	6	7	13	20	1-2	0	0
Kelsay, C.	7	10	10	20	9-27	0	2-11
Smith, J.	7	6	13	19	7-31	0	3.5-25
Ricketts, P.	7	12	6	18	0	0	0
Adams, D.	7	9	9	18	5-33	0	4-30
McPherson, L.	7	11	6	17	3-11	1-0	1-8
Slechta, J.	7	3	14	17	2-2	0	0
Groce, D.	6	13	4	17	0	2-49	0
Hollowell, T.J.	6	7	10	17	2-13	0	1-12
Nelson, C.	7	5	11	16	5-16	0	1.5-10
Clanton, J.	7	3	10	13	2-18	0	1-15
Wichmann, J.P.	7	4	7	11	3-9	0	0.5-4
Terpening, A.	7	2	8	10	0	0	0

### TEAM STATISTICS

Total Offensive Yards	3,230	1,606				
Plays	512	464				
Average Per Play	6.3	3.5				
Average Per Game	461.4	229.4				
Net Rushing Yards	2,375	488				
Attempts	414	234				
TDs Rushing	32	3				
Net Passing Yards	855	1,118				
Completions	60	94				
Average Per Pass	8.7	4.9				
Average Per Catch	14.2	11.9				
Average Per Game	122.1	159.7				
TDs Passing	4	3				
Sacks By-Yards	25-208	6-46				
Fumbles-Lost	21-11	15-5				
Penalties-Yards	39-378	48-370				
<b>Scoring</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>OT</b>	<b>TOT</b>
NU	92	72	51	55	0	270
Opponents	17	17	14	10	0	58

### Individual Leaders

#### NEBRASKA

##### RUSHING

Name	Att.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Collins, T.	13	165	12.7	50	0
Diedrick, D.	20	137	6.8	24	1
Crouch, E.	18	132	7.3	44	3
Davies, J.	12	119	9.9	42	2
Cornelsen, B.	1	36	36.0	36	0
Davis, J.	2	25	12.5	13	1
Grixby, D.	3	15	5.0	10	0
Kriewald, S.	3	10	3.3	5	0
Lord, J.	1	2	2.0	2	0

##### PASSING

Name	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Crouch, E.	4-9-0	44.4	47	0

##### RECEIVING

Name	No.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Collins, T.	2	14	7.0	13	0
Thomas, W.	1	18	18.0	18	0
Wistrom, T.	1	15	15.0	15	0

##### PUNTING

Name	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LNG
Larson, K.	4	170	42.5	48

##### PUNT RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Craver, K.	4	51	12.8	31	0
Cornelsen, B.	4	17	4.3	21	0

##### KICKOFF RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Davis, J.	3	85	28.3	32	0

##### DEFENSE

Name	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	Sacks
Ruud, B.	4	1	5	2-10	0	0
Adams, D.	3	2	5	2-15	0	2-15
Vedral, M.	3	2	5	0	0	0
Booker, D.	4	0	4	0	0	0
McPherson, L.	2	2	4	0	1-0	0
Nelson, C.	0	4	4	0	0	0
Swiney, E.	3	0	3	0	0	0
Craver, K.	2	1	3	0	1-16	0
Kelsay, C.	2	1	3	1-5	0	0
Burrow, J.	2	1	3	1-1	0	0
Ricketts, P.	2	1	3	0	0	0
Terpening, A.	1	2	3	0	0	0
Shanley, S.	2	0	2	1-10	0	1-10
Wichmann, J.P.	2	0	2	0	0	0
Thomas, B.	1	1	2	2-7	0	0
Amos, W.	1	1	2	0	0	0
Hassebroek, T.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Hollowell, T.J.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Johnson, T.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Smith, J.	1	0	1	1-8	0	1-8

Bland, P.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Demerath, T.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Clanton, J.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Thomas, W.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Slechta, J.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Woodward, W.	0	1	1	0	1-0	0
Klem, J.	0	1	1	0	0	0

#### BAYLOR

##### RUSHING

Name	Att.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Golden, J.	12	32	2.7	13	0
Cicero, G.	6	21	3.5	13	0
Barnett, M.	2	3	1.5	2	0

##### PASSING

Name	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Cicero, G.	14-35-2	40.0	145	0
Zachry, J.	1-5-0	20.0	13	0
Tomcheck, G.	0-3-1	00.0	0	0

##### RECEIVING

Name	No.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Quiroga, R.	4	34	8.5	16	0
Roberts, M.	3	49	16.3	20	0
Harrington, R.	3	25	8.3	13	0
Newhouse, R.	2	29	14.5	22	0
Krieg, A.	2	12	6.0	6	0
Fuller, A.	1	9	9.0	9	0

##### PUNTING

Name	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LNG
Stiles, A.	13	498	38.3	47

##### PUNT RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Hart, B.	2	20	10.0	17	0

##### KICKOFF RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Hart, B.	3	58	19.3	26	0
Davis, R.	2	32	16.0	19	0

##### DEFENSE

Name	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	Sacks
Cash, D.	7	8	15	0	0	0
Garrett, J.	7	6	13	0	0	0
Hart, B.	6	3	9	0	0	0
Al-Amin, S.	4	5	9	0	0	0
Wade, G.	1	8	9	0	0	0
Lard, A.	1	7	8	0	0	0
Sepulveda, S.	4	3	7	0	0	0
Kelley, E.	1	4	5	0	0	0
Stenix, M.	4	0	4	0	0	0
Quiroga, R.	3	1	4	0	0	0
Stevenson, K.	2	2	4	0	0	0



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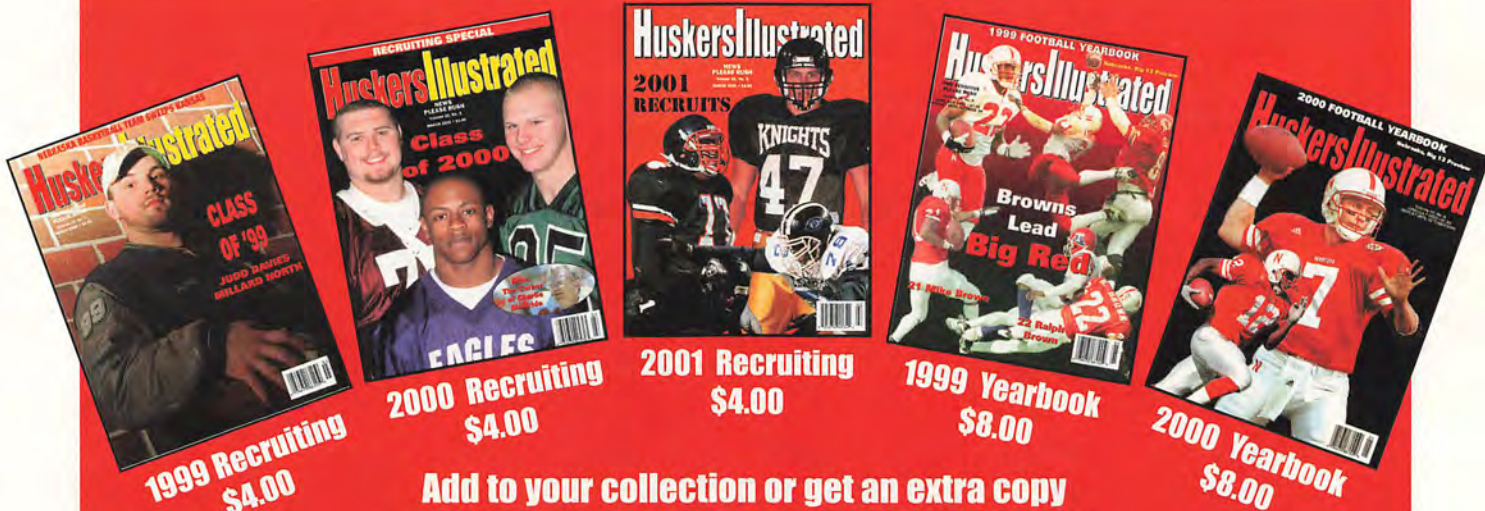


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## Nebraska Champions Club Is State of the Art

A year ago, the Nebraska Alumni Association announced plans to purchase the Big Red Shop directly across from Memorial Stadium, and replace it with the Champions Club, a two-story gathering place with adjacent parking.

Today those plans are a reality.

Designed by Sinclair Hille & Associates and built by Sampson Construction, both of Lincoln, the Nebraska Champions Club features an open-air pavilion with restrooms on the lower level. The upper level, a temperature-controlled space that can be used year-round for meetings or conferences, has T-1 lines, video conferencing and multiple audiovisual capabilities. It also houses a full-service kitchen, with catering provided by Chances R, the York, Neb.-based restaurant that has delighted Nebraska beef lovers for more than 40 years.

With a banquet capacity of 450 and reception capacity of 1,500, the club has twice the space of the Wick Alumni Center and can be rented by university

and community groups for conferences, reunions, banquets, exhibitions, wedding receptions and more on the 355+ non-game days each year

The new facility completes the beautification of the west stadium corridor and presents a pleasing transition to the new baseball stadium in Haymarket Park. The Champions Club grounds, landscaped by Lanoha Nursery of Omaha, sport plantings consistent with the rest of the campus, a 75-foot countdown clock tower, a wrought-iron fence reminiscent of the fence that enclosed campus a century ago and parking for 400 members on game days and university faculty, staff and students on weekdays.

Best of all, no university or tax dollars are involved in the project. The Champions Club is funded entirely through 25-year memberships. These \$20,000 memberships are 80 percent tax deductible and up to three parties may combine on an individual membership. Member benefits — including a reserved game-day parking space across from the

stadium; 12 club passes for each home game and spring game; availability of catering services; live entertainment, Husker Vision and Satellite TV; and clean, climate-controlled restrooms. That averages out to about \$17 per club pass over 25 years or approximately \$800 per year for all home games (less than the cost of traveling to one away game).

Individual memberships are more than two-thirds sold, and the price increases to \$25,000 on Oct. 26. Husker fans purchasing a membership before that date will see it increase 25 percent in value before the end of the month. The club also has a limited number of corporate memberships.

For more details on the Nebraska Champions Club, visit the Web site at [www.unl.edu/alumni/championsclub](http://www.unl.edu/alumni/championsclub). For membership information, contact Bob Stelter, director of marketing and sales, at (402) 202-3448 or (888) 353-1874 or e-mail him at [bstelter@unlalum@unl.edu](mailto:bstelter@unlalum@unl.edu)



Groundbreaking, November 2000.





Alumni Association First Vice President Bill Dana and Johnny Rodgers cut the ribbon as Sen. Ben Nelson and Lincoln Mayor Don Wesely watch.

## NEBRASKA CHAMPIONS CLUB

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The Nebraska Champions Club opened to great fan-fare with the start of the 2001 football season Aug. 23, and quickly lived up to its billing as Lincoln's "ultimate tailgating experience."

With live entertainment, a Husker Vision link, full food and beverage services and an abundance of Big Red spirit, the Champions Club offers its thousands of guests an unforgettably fun game-day atmosphere.

While activities were in full swing for NU's first two games against Texas Christian and Troy State, the club celebrated its official grand opening Sept. 8 when the Huskers hosted Notre Dame. Joining in the ribbon-cutting festivities that day were U.S. Sen. Ben Nelson, Lincoln Mayor Don Wesely and 1972 Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Rodgers, as well as representatives of the alumni association, athletic department, building contractors and architect.



March 2001.



April 2001.



May 2001.



But not all the activities have been football-related. On the eve of the much-anticipated Notre Dame game, the Champions Club hosted a special tribute dinner to 1996 grad Lt. Shane Osborn. Last April, Osborn heroically piloted the ill-fated U.S. spy plane that collided with a Chinese jet to a safe landing on Hainan Island, China.

Next up: All alumni and friends will have an opportunity to sample the amenities of the Nebraska Champions Club on Friday, Oct. 19, 5 to 7:30 p.m., at "Come On Home," the alumni association's annual homecoming celebration. Music, munchies, Husker spirit and the introduction of an official class ring will all be part of the celebration that supports the 2001 homecoming theme: "Tour the Big Red Tradition." Festivities at the Club will include performances by the Scarlet and Cream Singers, the Yell Squad, Herbie Husker, Lil' Red and the Juggling Club; a tour of campus homecoming displays on Molley the Trolley; free food; door prizes; and homecoming royalty appearances.

A float representing the campus movement toward an official class ring will be under construction during the event and atten-



Fans enjoy the pre-game festivities in the Club House Sept. 1.

dees are welcome to lend a hand. The float is part of the new University Ring Program to create a single class ring exclusive to students and alumni who have completed 70 credit hours at Nebraska.

The Nebraska Champions

Club will also host a Children's Spooktacular for club members and their families, plus university faculty and staff families on Oct. 30. This first-year event is being done on a smaller scale, but plans are already in the works to expand the invitation list in 2002.



June 2001.



July 2001.



August 2001.



The person behind all the festive planning is Jaime Johnson, event coordinator for the club. She oversees all events held at the facility, including game-day activities, wedding receptions and corporate parties. Johnson assumed the position Aug. 20 after several years at Lincoln-area dining establishments, including her most recent post as the assistant food and beverage director for the Quarry Oaks Golf Club in



Ashland. Prior to that, Johnson was the assistant general manager at the Nebraska Club and the director of banquet services at the University Club.

For more information about renting the club or to book an event there, call Johnson at (402) 472-6435 or (888) 353-1874, or e-mail her at [jjohnson@unlalum.uneb.edu](mailto:jjohnson@unlalum.uneb.edu)



September 2001.

## DID YOU KNOW ....

The Nebraska Champions Club is owned and operated by the Nebraska Alumni Association, not the university or the athletic department. The association is a separate, 501(c)(3) corporation.

The Nebraska Champions Club celebrates all University of Nebraska champions whether academic, athletic or service-oriented.

The Nebraska Champions Club has members from all parts of Nebraska plus Arizona, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Mississippi, Texas and South Dakota.

The Nebraska Champions Club was designed by Sinclair Hille & Associates and built by Sampson Construction, the same Lincoln companies that built and designed the stadium skybox addition.

The Nebraska Champions Club was financed solely through club memberships. No tax dollars, university funding or alumni association membership dues were used.

The Nebraska Champions Club fence is not just a replica of the fence surrounding the early university into the 1920s ... the new fence was manufactured by the same company using the original fence mold.

The Nebraska Champions Club is an electronically smart facility with T-1lines, video conferencing and multi audiovisual capabilities.

The Nebraska Champions Club is available for the general public to rent 355 days a year.

The Nebraska Champions Club parking lot is available to the university on weekdays, year-round. The 400 parking spaces represent a 60 percent increase in the spaces previously available to the university at this location.

The Nebraska Champions Club has a banquet capacity of 450 and reception capacity of 1,500 — twice the space of the Wick Alumni Center.

Nebraska Champions Club members come from many walks of life. They are farmers and ranchers, contractors and car dealers, doctors and nurses, attorneys and teachers, printers and manufacturers, retirees and more.

Nebraska Champions Club members support the alumni association through their membership dues. The association, in turn, supports the university through a variety of programs and services.



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Signed: Brian Hill, General Manager/Editor

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# 'A Lot Faster'

## Nebraska's four freshmen adjusting to college game

By Todd Henrichs

**J**ust trying to find your way around campus is difficult when you're a freshman.

So imagine trying to find your way as a first-year player in the Nebraska volleyball program. Now that's intimidating.

"The intensity is . . . well it's hard to describe," freshman Michelle Lynch said. "And the power. It's a lot faster, and the girls are a lot stronger."

"That's the real difference."

As the talent level and athleticism suggests, Nebraska has the kind of program that always attracts the top players. But seldom has a Husker recruiting class garnered the kind of notoriety that this group has.

Lynch, a standout setter from Jacksonville, Ill., was a high school All-American by Volleyball Magazine her senior year. Outside hitter Allyne Rebholz of Indianapolis played two seasons on the U.S. Junior National Team.

Coach John Cook believes Melissa Elmer of Fort Wayne, Ind., possesses All-American potential as a middle blocker. Already, he's compared defensive specialist Sara Parks of Papillion-LaVista to former Husker Maria Hedbeck, the defensive star of Nebraska's 1995 national champions.

Parks saw her first action at the preseason State Farm Women's Volleyball Classic — before ever attending her first college class.



Nebraska's freshman class is made up of (front) Sara Parks (4), (middle) Melissa Elmer (8), Allyne Rebholz (13) and (back) Michelle Lynch (2).

"As she learns, Sara Parks is going to make plays that people are going to love," Cook said. "She's all over the court."

But even when you're part of a top-five recruiting class, court time is

considered a blessing at talent-rich Nebraska. Parks has seen the most action of NU's freshmen, playing in nearly half of the Huskers' games through midseason.

Though considered the bluest blue



chip of the class, Rebholz didn't see her first playing time until the 10th match against Iowa State. Her biggest adjustment was a position shift from middle blocker.

"We've got to develop another left-side hitter, and we believe she's the one to do it," Cook said. He hopes to redshirt Lynch and Elmer, though both have been performing well in practice.

With the new and the old, hard work seems to be a Husker trademark. In fact, Rebholz said that work ethic is what brought her to Nebraska when many — including current Husker Anna Schrad — believed she wasn't interested.

Schrad and Rebholz played together on the Junior National Team. Schrad was captain and a friendly face to a high school junior awed by the notion of playing internationally at such a young age.

"She was always real helpful because I was always the odd one out," Rebholz said. "She kind of helped me feel comfortable, but yet she was still so focused on playing. She's doing the same thing here."

Rebholz considers Schrad "one of her coaches" as she learns a new position and strives to gain more playing time for the second-ranked Huskers.

Cook has said he doesn't want to have the same thing happen to Rebholz as happened to Laura Pilakowski as a freshman. Pilakowski played in just nine matches, managing only 30 swings in 1999.

Still Pilakowski came on to earn All-American honors as a sophomore. And like Pilakowski, Rebholz was the coaches' preseason pick as Big 12 freshman of the year.

"My biggest goal is just to keep pushing in practice and get better," she said. "If I'm not on the court, I want to be pushing the six on the court because they're the ones representing us. I like to push people to their best."

Nationwide, the push is on for the next class of recruits, those who will sign on with college teams beginning in November.

Nebraska has commitments from high school seniors Nicole

Westerterp of Beaumont, Texas; Olivia Waldowski of Irvine, Calif.; and Kelsey Fautsch of Lindstrom, Minn. Current junior Dani Busboom of Freeman High School in Nebraska has also orally accepted a scholarship, hers for the 2003 season.

By then, Rebholz will be a junior and someone the younger players can look up to for guidance and support. But for now, she and the other freshmen are gladly biding their time, soaking up all there is to learn on and off the volleyball court.

"They're helping us with our technique, and they're making sure that we all know what's going on," Rebholz said. "If we make an error, they tell us what we need to do to correct it."

"It's a lot more of a family than I thought it would be."

Winning remains one of the biggest family values. Nebraska began conference play with six straight victories, pushing its overall record to 13-1.

"I couldn't ask for a better team to play with," said Lynch, "and practice against." ■

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# Miles to Go in 100 Days

**Nebraska  
figures to add  
12-14 more  
recruits to  
2002 class**



Omaha Central  
wide receiver  
Mark LeFlore  
committed  
early to  
Nebraska.

**By Doug Horwich**

**W**ith roughly 100 days remaining until Signing Day, the Nebraska staff is beginning to schedule visits with a number of its top prospects from around the country.

In recent years, Nebraska coaches have scheduled the majority of official visits in December and January. Although visits during home game weekends offer recruits a true taste of the Husker experience, the fact that the coaches have limited time to spend with visiting recruits on such weekends contributes to a low number of these visits being scheduled by the Husker staff.

Nebraska currently has six oral

commitments for its 2002 class and figures to add approximately 12-14 more players before all is said and done on Feb. 6. However, with only 14 weeks remaining until Signing Day, Nebraska will need to average roughly one commitment per week in order to achieve its desired goal of 18-20 academically qualified signed athletes.

Despite the fact that the Huskers usually have a greater number of oral commitments by mid-October, a number of recruits currently list Nebraska as their leader, and the Huskers are very much in the running for a substantial number of others.

In all likelihood, Nebraska will receive a few commitments during the months of October and November, another 3-5 in December and a final 3-5 in January.

The most important factor in achieving the commitment goals that

the Husker staff has set for this season is scheduling a sufficient number of official on-campus visits. History has shown that Nebraska is generally able to secure oral commitments from about 25 percent of the visiting players, which means that approximately 50 official visits will need to be scheduled between now and Signing Day.

The final 12-14 commitments will most likely be broken down as follows:

## Quarterback

Nebraska has fulfilled its desired goal of getting a commitment from a top quarterback prospect in this class with Curt Dukes (6-2, 210, 4.6, Newton, N.C.), who is having an outstanding senior season for Class 2A Newton-Conover. No additional quarterbacks will be pursued in this recruiting class.

## I-Back

The Husker staff would like to sign 1-2 I-backs in this class, and a number of top prospects currently list Nebraska among their favorites.

A few of the most likely possibilities are Omaha Central's David Horne (6-2, 200, 4.6, Omaha, Neb.), Tre Smith (5-10, 190, 4.4, Venice, Fla.), Gerald Riggs, Jr. (6-0, 220, 4.5, Chattanooga, Tenn.), Dave Richard (6-0, 230, 4.5, St. Louis, Mo.) and Marcus O'Keith (5-11, 180, 4.4, Harbor City, Calif.).

Of these prospects, only Smith has visited Lincoln, and he currently lists Nebraska as his leader.

## Fullback

A recent commitment from Lincoln Southeast's Dane Todd (5-11 1/2, 230, 4.8, Lincoln, Neb.) gives the Huskers the one fullback commitment that was targeted for this recruiting class. No additional fullbacks are likely to be

## Nebraska Commitments for 2002

Player	Hometown (school)	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.
Curt Dukes	Newton (Newton-Conover), N.C.	6-2	210	QB
Matt Herian	Pierce, Neb.	6-5	225	TE
Mark LeFlore	Omaha (Central), Neb.	6-0	185	WR
Kurt Mann	Grand Island, Neb.	6-4 1/2	255	OL
Jay Moore	Elkhorn, Neb.	6-4 1/2	245	RE
Dane Todd	Lincoln (Southeast), Neb.	5-11 1/2	230	FB



offered at this point.

#### **Wingback / Split End**

An early commitment from Central High School's dynamic Mark LeFlore (6-0, 185, 4.45, Omaha, Neb.) is a good start, but the Husker staff will look to add 1-2 more wide receiver prospects to the 2002 class.

One possibility is Enrique Cook (6-1, 185, 4.4, Chicago), who currently lists the Huskers among his top-five. Other possibilities are Brandon Horn (6-1, 205, 4.5, Detroit) and Ben Obomanu (6-2, 185, 4.45, Selma, Ala.).

At this time, Nebraska does not appear to be in the mix for a large number of wide receiver prospects. The Husker staff may target additional prospects over the next two months and may end up pursuing one or more junior college athletes who could possibly come in and help immediately.

#### **Tight End**

Pierce High School's Matt Herian (6-5, 225, 4.8, Pierce, Neb.) is likely to be the only tight end signed in the 2002 class, as the Husker staff does not appear to be pursuing other tight end prospects at this time.

#### **Offensive Line**

With a commitment from Grand Island's Kurt Mann (6-4 1/2, 255, 5.3, Grand Island, Neb.), the Nebraska coaches will most likely try to obtain an additional 3-4 offensive line commitments in this recruiting class.

A number of the nation's top prospects are currently listing the Huskers, including Heath Benedict (6-6, 285, 4.85, Highstown, N.J.), Justin Blalock (6-4, 335, 5.0, Plano, Texas), Stanley Daniels (6-4, 300, 5.2, San Diego, Calif.), Abner Estrada (6-4, 275, 5.2, Carrollton, Texas), Max Jean-Gilles (6-5, 340, 5.2, North Miami Beach, Fla.), Nathan Rhodes (6-7, 305, 5.1, Bakersfield, Calif.), Rob Smith (6-4, 295, 5.0, Fort Thomas, Ky.) and Kasey Studdard (6-2, 265, 4.8, Littleton, Colo.).

Daniels has visited, and the majority of the others will be scheduled over the next few weeks.

#### **Defensive Tackle**

The large number of outstanding defensive tackle prospects signed in last year's recruiting class has caused the Husker coaches to confine their attention to a handful of the nation's elite tackle prospects this year.

At the top of the list is E. Haloti Ngata (6-4, 305, 4.8, Salt Lake City, Utah), who visited during the week-

# **NU Maintaining Florida Presence**

**By Rick Shaw**

**W**e have now passed the midpoint of the 2001 college football season, and Nebraska's recruiting effort has hit full stride.

The Nebraska coaching staff has narrowed its recruiting focus to around 75 athletes from across the country. A handful of the Huskers' top prospects reside in Florida.

The Nebraska defensive staff would like to sign one or two speedy cornerback prospects in their 2002 class. Fabian Washington (5-foot-10 1/2, 170 pounds) out of Bradenton, Fla., is one of the top prospects at that position on the Husker board.

Earlier in the season, Washington listed the Seminoles of Florida State as his No. 1 team. Things have changed over the course of the past several weeks, however, and Washington now says that he is leaning strongly toward joining the Huskers.

"Nebraska is my favorite right now," Washington said. "I would say that there is probably a 75 percent chance that I will end up there. I want to go to a school that is already winning and established, and Nebraska fits that bill. I'll probably also visit Auburn, North Carolina, and Michigan State. Florida State has not been recruiting me very hard this past month."

Another standout from the Sunshine State who now may be leaning in Nebraska's direction is Buster Davis (5-10, 225) of Daytona Beach. Davis is widely considered one of the top 10 linebacker prospects in the country.

Davis also favored Florida State early but now says that he is likely to leave the state. "There is a pretty good chance that I'll leave Florida to play football," Davis said. "Nebraska, Ohio State, and Notre Dame are some of the schools that I'm looking at. I'm still considering Florida State, too."

Davis and Washington may try to take their official visits to Nebraska during the same weekend.

"Buster and I are friends," Washington said. "He called me last week, and we talked about maybe going to the same school for college. We would like to take our visits to Nebraska together, so I need to get with him to schedule that. Nebraska is his top school as well as mine. He likes Florida State also. Florida State is probably the only Florida school that has a shot at keeping him in state."

Nebraska would also like to score a speed rush end prospect from within Florida's borders. Miami product Taurean Charles (6-3, 227) is at the top of the Huskers' wish list.

Charles appreciates the attention that he has received from Nebraska coaches and lists the Huskers in his top four, along with North Carolina State, Rutgers, and Oklahoma.

"Nebraska was the first school to call in September," Charles said. "They have done a great job of recruiting me. They told me in the spring that they would stick with me until the end. I'll definitely visit there."

Charles said that he gives the early recruiting edge to North Carolina State and Rutgers. He said that he wouldn't make a decision, however, until after he has taken at least four visits. ■



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end of the Notre Dame game. Other possibilities are Brandon Greeson (6-5, 315, 5.1, High Point, N.C.), Jake Kuresa (6-4, 310, 4.95, Hyrum, Utah), Kyle Williams (6-2, 280, 4.8, Ruston, La.) and Fred Matua (6-2, 290, 5.0, Wilmington, Calif.). Nebraska will try to sign 1-2 prospects from this group.

#### Rush End

Pass rushers are vital to the attacking 4-3 defense that Nebraska utilizes, and therefore, the rush end position is a top priority on an annual basis. The lack of a single rush end prospect in the 2001 class makes this position even more critical for 2002.

A commitment from Elkhorn's Jay Moore (6-4 1/2, 245, 4.7, Elkhorn, Neb.) helps to address the need at the position, but the Husker staff will look to add 1-2 more rush end prospects to this class.

Although a number of Husker offers have been extended to rush ends, there does not appear to be a substantial number of offered prospects who are showing serious interest at this time. Two who have already been offered and have the Huskers among their top five are Bryan Andrews (6-6, 215, 4.7, Lima, Ohio) and Taurean Charles (6-3, 230, 4.55, Miami, Fla.). A few more have

shown substantial interest in Nebraska but have not yet been offered, such as Brandon Ala (6-3, 230, 4.55, Honolulu, Hawaii), Adam Carriker (6-6, 235, 5.0, Kennewick, Wash.) and Donny Mateaki (6-6, 260, 4.7, Honolulu).

#### Linebacker

With only one linebacker signed in the previous recruiting class, the Husker staff will probably look to sign 2-3 in this year's class.

Among the offered prospects showing interest are Mike D'Andrea (6-3, 235, 4.6, Avon Lake, Ohio), Buster Davis (5-10, 230, 4.65, Daytona Beach, Fla.), Marvin Byrdsong (6-3, 235, 4.5, Longview, Texas) and Glenn Jackson (6-1, 215, 4.55, Carrollton, Texas). None has visited yet.

#### Defensive Back

The Huskers signed an outstanding class of defensive backs last year, but will look to add 1-2 more in this year's class.

A few of the most likely possibilities are cornerbacks Fabian Washington (5-11, 175, 4.4, Bradenton, Fla.), Quinton McCoy (5-11, 175, 4.3, Chandler, Ariz.) and Roshawn Pope (5-11, 180, 4.4, Galveston, Texas), and safety Thomas Wright (5-11, 185, 4.6, Sweeny, Texas). ■

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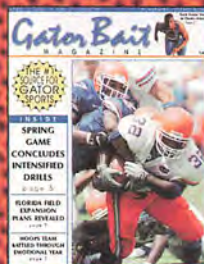
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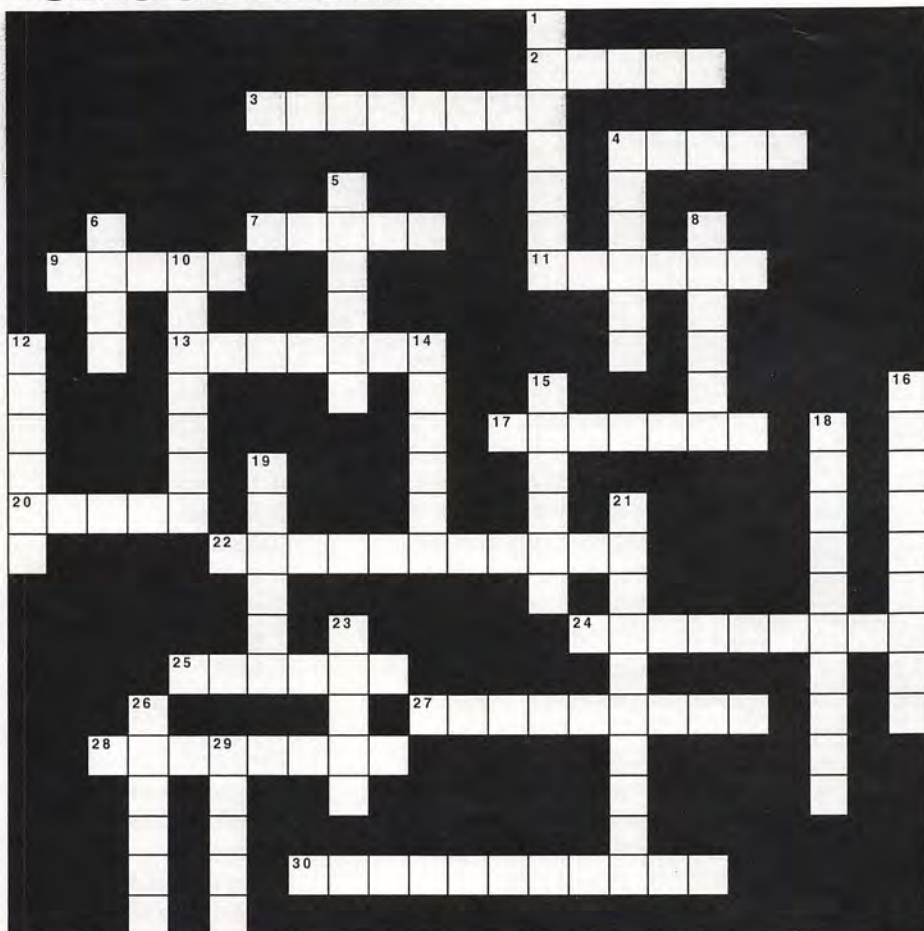
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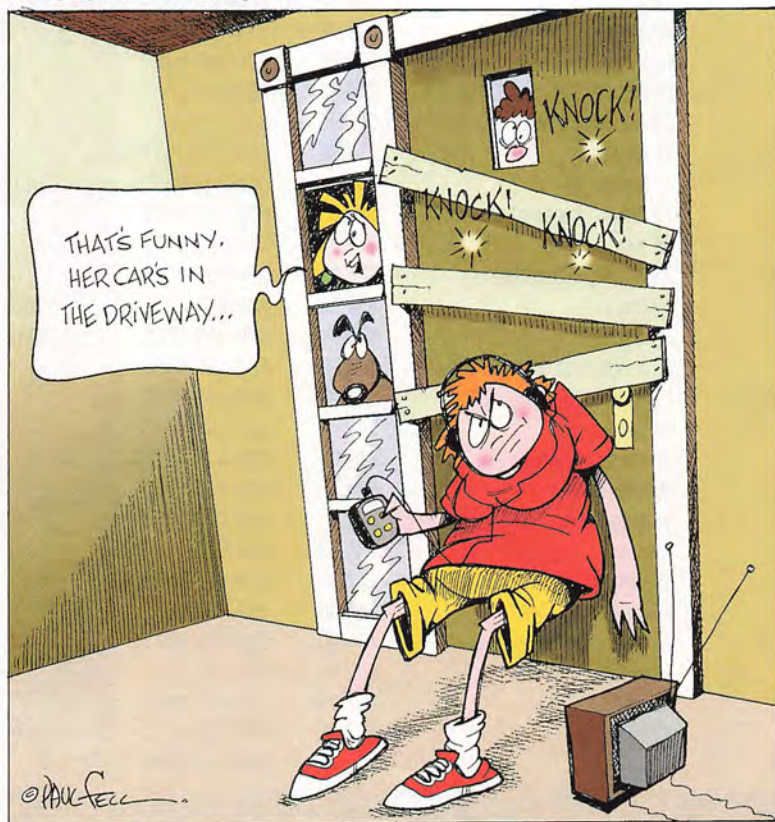
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## A Soft Spot For 'Those Guys'

**Former fullback Solich gives Davies opportunity to top 100-yard mark**



**Mike BABCOCK**

JUDD DAVIES FIGURED Frank Solich was being facetious. When Solich asked him if he wanted to go back into the game and carry the ball, "I just laughed," said Davies.

He quickly realized that Solich was serious, however, and seized the opportunity.

He carried for 3 yards, then 5 yards and, after a carry by back-up quarterback Jammal Lord, 1 yard, on a play nullified by a penalty. After two carries by back-up I-back DeAntae Grixby, he carried for 5 yards. Then, on first-and-10 at the Baylor 22-yard line, he carried for a touchdown.

But the touchdown was a secondary concern for Solich, who would have pulled Davies had he gained 3 yards instead of 22 on that last carry. With 3 yards, Davies would have had 100 on the nose.

And that's why Solich sent him back in with the game decided. "I have a soft spot in my heart for those guys," Solich said. "They take a pounding. And they give a pounding."

Those guys are Davies and Nebraska's other fullbacks.

And they can also run with the ball when given the opportunity.

Prior to the Baylor game, Davies, Steve Kriewald and Paul Kastl, the top three fullbacks on the depth chart, had rushed for a combined 124 yards. Davies had 62 of the yards, on 20 carries.

He rushed for 119 yards on 12 carries against the Bears.

If you do the math, he had 84 rushing yards before Solich allowed him to return. Running backs coach Dave Gillespie called down from the pressbox to tell Solich how close Davies was to 100.

"And Judd reinforced it," Solich said with a smile.

Ordinarily, Solich wouldn't put a player back in a game for statistical reasons. But he made an exception in this case, having been a Cornhusker fullback himself.

Mike Corgan was his position coach. And Corgan was known as "Iron Mike."

Often, when Nebraska would get near the goal line, Corgan would take him out of the game in favor of a bigger fullback. But Solich never complained. "You didn't get mad at Coach Corgan," he said.

"You were just glad when he put you back in."

Though Solich isn't known as "Iron Frank," he has the respect of his players. And after the game, Davies thanked the head coach for letting him go back in the game.

"It felt real strange to know they were kind of putting me in there so I could get the ball," said Davies. "With the talent (at running back) we've got, it was pretty humbling."

"I figured once we got up, I'd be out. The other guys deserve to play, too."

He and Kriewald were on the field together at times in Nebraska's many alignments.

Even though Davies knew the reason he was allowed to return to the game was to get 100 yards rushing, he didn't feel any more pressure than he ordinarily would. "I prepare myself for every game, if I get the ball one time or 12," he said. "The blocking is more important than me running the ball."

His blocking helped clear the way for teammates Eric Crouch, Dahrran Diedrick and Thunder Collins all to rush for more than 100 yards, too. Collins led the way with 165 yards. Diedrick rushed for 137 yards and one touchdown. And Crouch rushed for 132 yards and three touchdowns.

Only four other major college teams have had four players rush for 100 yards or more in a single game: Arizona State (1951), Texas (1969), Alabama (1973) and Army (1984).

Nebraska has had three players rush for 100 yards twice, against Arizona State in 1988 and against Kansas last season.

Davies also scored touchdowns on runs of 42 and 22 yards.

There had been some concern about his productivity this season, measured statistically. But that concern began to fade the first time he carried the ball against Baylor — and scored on the 42-yard run to give the Cornhuskers a 7-0 lead midway through the first quarter.

He gained 11 yards on his next carry to set the tone for the game. Despite the numbers, "I don't think it's a breakthrough game," said Davies. "If I get 12 carries, I should have 100 yards."

Even so, "I never thought I'd ever get over 100 yards," he said.

On a day when Nebraska fumbled seven times, losing five, he held onto the ball.

"I was pleased with myself that I didn't fumble," he said.

Crouch, for whom 100 yards rushing is becoming commonplace, was among those who congratulated Davies afterward. "He was just happy for me, the 'Millard North connection,'" Davies said.

The two were teammates at Omaha's Millard North High School.

Davies rushed for 1,500 yards and 23 touchdowns as a high school senior. Carrying the ball wasn't a big deal to him then. It was a matter of course. But this was different.

"For me it was overwhelming," he said of the yardage and the opportunity to get it. ■

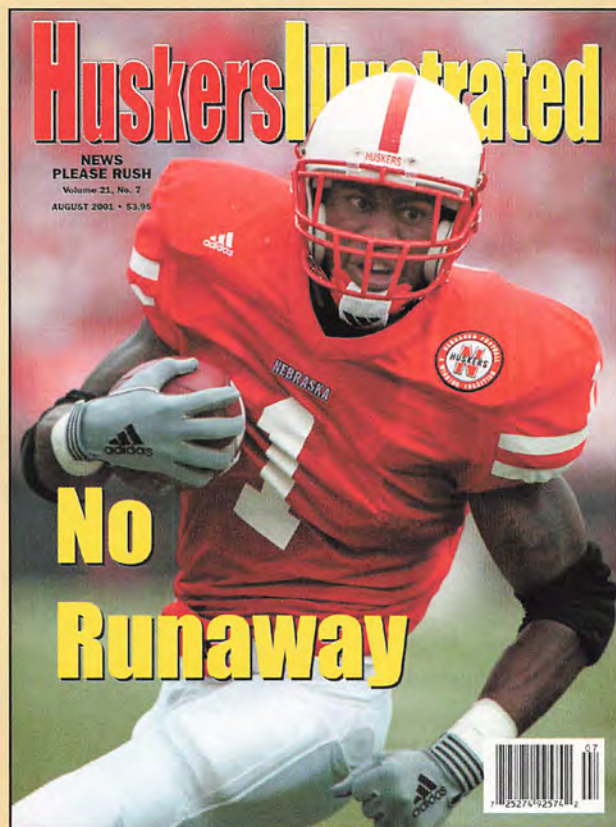
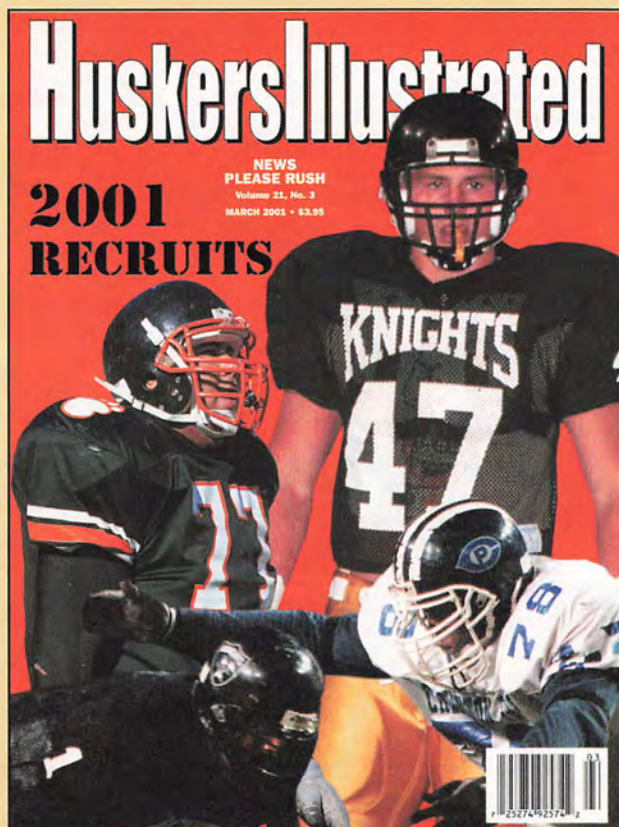


**Judd Davies breaks away on his first-quarter touchdown run.**

**Mike Babcock** is a former sports columnist for the Lincoln Journal Star. He has covered Nebraska football for more than 20 years. Mike can be reached at [mbd@inetnebr.com](mailto:mbd@inetnebr.com) or P.O. Box 6782, Lincoln, NE 68506.



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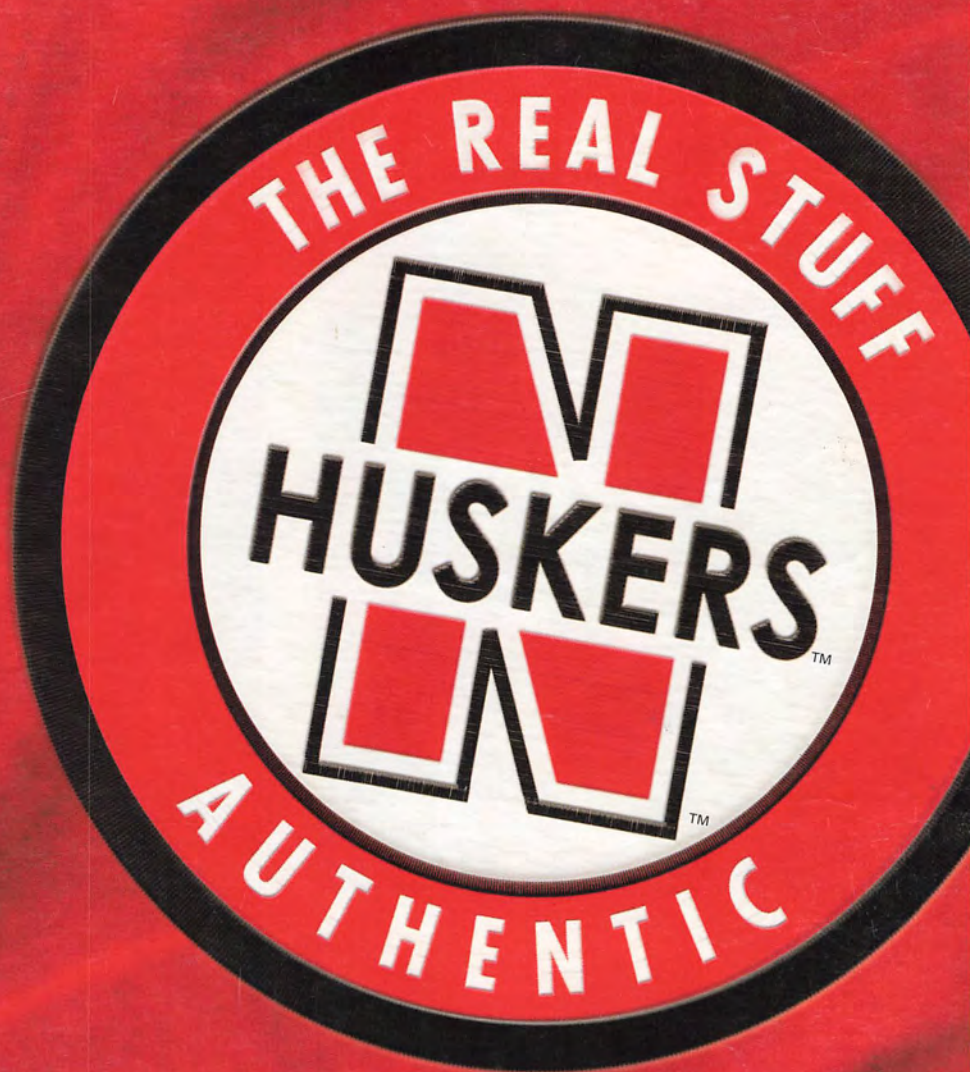
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